United Nations A/63/176

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 91 (b) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament: missiles

The issue of missiles in all its aspects

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report was prepared by the Panel of Governmental Experts, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/67, to address the issue of missiles in all its aspects, including identifying areas where consensus could be reached.

The report discusses the background and present situation with regard to missiles, and identifies a number of key issues that should be taken into account in order to address, in a comprehensive manner, the issue of missiles in all its aspects. These issues include, inter alia, the global and regional security backdrop which provides the motivation, or lack thereof, for missile development, testing, production, acquisition, transfer, possession, deployment and use; the circumstances of transfer to and use of certain types of missile and missile technology by State or non-State actors; the issues of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation; the interrelationship between doctrines, strategies and missile-related behaviour; the relative salience of ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as of missiles used as delivery vehicles for weapons of mass destruction or conventional arms; missile defence; and the increased contribution of space-based capabilities to a wide range of human endeavours.

* A/63/150.

** The present report was submitted upon the conclusion of the work of the Panel of Governmental Experts.

08-44092 (E) 200808

The Panel concluded, among other things, that it was important to have continued international efforts to deal with the increasingly complex issue of missiles in the interest of international peace and security and to deliberate further on the issue, specifically focusing attention on existing and emerging areas of consensus. The Panel also emphasized the important role of the United Nations in providing a more structured and effective mechanism to build such a consensus.

Letter of transmittal

I have the honour to submit herewith the report of the Panel of Governmental Experts on the issue of missiles in all its aspects. The Panel was appointed by you in pursuance of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 59/67.

The following governmental experts were appointed as members of the Panel:

Hamid Baeidi Nejad (First session)
Director General for International Political Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Islamic Republic of Iran

Emad M. B. Ben-Shaban (Third session)
Third Secretary
Permanent Mission of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
to the United Nations
New York

Sung-Joo Choi
Minister
Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Brazil

Michiel J. Combrink
Deputy Director for Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
Department of Foreign Affairs
South Africa

Per S. Fischer
Special Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Non-Proliferation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Denmark

Carlos Foradori
Adviser to the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Argentina

Amandeep Singh Gill
Director
Disarmament and International Security Affairs
Ministry of External Affairs
India

Hellmut Hoffmann
Head of Division, Nuclear Arms Control and Non-Proliferation
Federal Foreign Office
Germany

Tariq Osman Hyder
Visiting Professor of Strategic Studies
National Defence University, Islamabad, and
Member of Oversight Board for Strategic Export Controls
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Pakistan

Alfredo Labbé
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations
New York

Shengkun Ma (First session)
Division Director
Department of Arms Control and Disarmament
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
China

Donald A. Mahley
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Threat Reduction, Export Controls and Negotiation
Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation
Department of State
United States of America

Erik Marzolf
Political Adviser, Delegation for Strategic Affairs
Non-proliferation and Disarmament Office
Ministry of Defence
France

Grigory I. Mashkov
Deputy Director
Department for Security Affairs and Disarmament
Russian Federation

Santiago Irazábal Mourão (Chairman)
Disarmament and Sensitive Technologies Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Brazil

Reza Najafi (Third session)
Director for Disarmament and International Security Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Islamic Republic of Iran

Grzegorz M. Poznanski
Deputy Director
Department for Security Policy
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Poland

Andy Rachmianto
Deputy Director
Directorate for International Security and Disarmament
Department of Foreign Affairs
Indonesia

Rodica Radian-Gordon (Second and third sessions)
Director, Arms Control Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Israel

S. M. Ali Robatjazi (Second session)
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
New York

Takaya Suto
Director of the Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
Japan Institute of International Affairs
Japan

László Szatmári
Department of Defence Policy
Ministry of Defence
Hungary

Chuka Udedibia
Director
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nigeria

Daxue Wang (Third session)
Deputy Director
Department of Arms Control and Disarmament
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
China

Andrew Wood
Head of Export Control Policy, Counter Proliferation and Arms Control
Ministry of Defence
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Omar Amer Youssef
Counsellor
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Egypt

Dunhai Yu (Second session)
Deputy Director
Department of Arms Control
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
People's Republic of China

Miriam Ziv (First session)
Deputy Director-General for Strategic Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Israel

The report was prepared between June 2007 and June 2008, during which time the Panel held three sessions, the first from 4 to 8 June 2007, the second from 25 to 29 February 2008 and the third from 2 to 6 June 2008, at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The members of the Panel wish to express their appreciation for the assistance they received from members of the Secretariat of the United Nations, in particular, Curtis Raynold of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch, Department for

Disarmament Affairs, who served as Secretary of the Panel, and Waheguru Pal Singh Sidhu and Alyson Bailes, who served as consultants to the Panel.

The Panel is also grateful to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, for his support throughout its work.

I have been requested by the Panel of Governmental Experts, as its Chairman, to submit to you, on its behalf, the annexed report, which was unanimously approved.

(*Signed*) Santiago Irazábal **Mourão**
Chairman

Foreword by the Secretary-General

The international community has long harboured concerns about the accumulation, proliferation, technical refinement and threat and use of ballistic and other types of missile. States have responded by pursuing various unilateral, bilateral or multilateral measures. Despite the concerns of the international community, there is no universally accepted norm or instrument specifically governing the development, testing, production, acquisition, transfer, deployment or use of missiles.

The present report was prepared by the Panel of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/67 and is the third effort by the United Nations to address the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

The report addresses a number of important issues that should be taken into account in order to address, in a comprehensive manner, the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

Divergent views and the complexity of the issue of missiles led the Panel to conclude that continued international efforts are important in order to deal with this issue, specifically focusing further deliberations on existing and emerging areas of consensus. I note with satisfaction the emphasis the Panel attributes to the role of the United Nations in providing a more structured and effective mechanism to build such a consensus.

I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the Panel for completing their work and I commend their report to the General Assembly for its consideration.

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/33 A, the first Panel of Governmental Experts was established from July 2001 to July 2002 to assist the Secretary-General in the preparation of a report on the issue of missiles in all its aspects. That first report was welcomed by the Assembly in its resolutions 57/71 and 58/37, entitled "Missiles". Pursuant to Assembly resolution 58/37, the second Panel of Governmental Experts was established in 2004 to assist the Secretary-General to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects. However, at that time and given the complexity of the issues at hand, no consensus was reached on the preparation of a final report.

2. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/67, the Secretary-General, with the support of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, prepared a report to contribute to the United Nations endeavour to address the issue of missiles in all its aspects by identifying areas where consensus could be reached. By its resolution 61/59, the Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/168).

3. Also pursuant to resolution 59/67, the Secretary-General appointed a third Panel of Governmental Experts from 23 States (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America) to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects, including identifying areas where consensus could be reached.

4. The Panel held three sessions in 2007 and 2008, from 4 to 8 June 2007, from 25 to 29 February 2008 and from 2 to 6 June 2008, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Panel had a comprehensive, in-depth exchange of views on all aspects of the issue of missiles and agreed on the present report by consensus.

II. Overview

5. The issue of missiles continues to be a focus of increased international attention, discussion and activity. The potential of missiles to carry and deliver a payload of weapons of mass destruction quickly and accurately makes them a qualitatively significant political and military issue. In addition, the diversity of international interests on matters related to missiles poses a specific challenge for efforts to address the issue in multilateral forums.

6. Missile development, testing, production, acquisition, transfer, possession, deployment and use by States are linked in varying ways with the perceived security scenario at global and regional levels. For some States, the security scenario in their immediate regional neighbourhood is a principal determinant in their threat perception, while other States respond both to global and regional security developments. The expansion of national missile capabilities and the related elements of military posture have significant impact on overall security evaluations, both global and regional.

7. In addition, the use of guided and unguided conventionally armed missiles by non-State actors also has an impact on global and regional security.

8. Despite efforts made both within and outside the United Nations, no universal norm, treaty or agreement governing the development, testing, production, acquisition, possession, transfer, deployment or use of missiles exists. However, some past and existing treaties and agreements, whether bilateral, plurilateral, regional or multilateral, do contain specific provisions on particular types or aspects of missiles. In addition, some States have also adopted unilateral measures that deal with missiles.

III. Trends and developments

9. The important role of missiles of numerous types, both conventional and non-conventional, in many States' military doctrines and national and regional security policies, including their potential for offensive and defensive roles, is a continuing and broadening trend. The development, testing, production, acquisition, transfer, brokering, possession, deployment and use of missiles have remained a source of security concern or consideration for international peace and security, both globally and regionally.

10. Since the report of the first Panel of Governmental Experts of July 2002 (A/57/229), missiles of different types have been developed or have undergone technological improvement and some have been modernized, flight-tested or transferred either as complete systems or as component parts. Missiles and rockets with conventional warheads have been increasingly used. Missiles have also been modified and employed against objects in outer space.

11. States continue to seek different measures to counter the special characteristics and capabilities of missiles. There are contrasting points of view as to the implications of missile defences.

12. Developments and refinements of the technical characteristics and operational capabilities of missiles, both ballistic and cruise, including those capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, enable some of the systems to achieve greater effect and higher performance in terms of speed, accuracy, range and evasion. The use of stealth technologies, while becoming more widespread on cruise missiles, is still limited to a few States. Supersonic cruise missiles are also being developed.

13. Almost all armed forces continue to incorporate into their arsenals and use a variety of conventionally armed missiles for specialized roles in military operations, either as part of their modernization processes and/or as part of military doctrine reviews. Nuclear tipped missiles, although never used, continue to have an important role in the doctrine of some States.

14. States, groups of States, international and regional organizations have been increasingly active in international, regional and bilateral forums addressing issues specifically related to missiles. Some new mechanisms or institutions have been created and existing mechanisms have continued their work. These range from various United Nations resolutions, to measures taken by several regional organizations, and to multilateral, plurilateral, bilateral and unilateral initiatives taken by some States. However, there is still no universal norm, treaty or agreement

governing the development, testing, production, acquisition, possession, transfer, deployment or use of missiles.

15. Within the United Nations system, a number of resolutions have been adopted since 2002 that deal selectively with the issue of missiles. The General Assembly has adopted a number of resolutions that deal with the issue of missiles and of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Some of these are presented on an annual or biannual basis to the First Committee (disarmament and international security issues) of the Assembly. The Security Council has, in the context of its mandate, approached the issue of missiles both thematically and in the context of regional or country-specific issues through the adoption of a number of resolutions.

IV. Issues relating to missiles in all aspects

16. In order to seek areas where consensus could be reached, as determined by General Assembly resolution 59/67, experts raised and deliberated upon key issues related to missiles that should be taken into consideration in order to address comprehensively the issue of missiles in all its aspects. These include, among others, the security backdrop (both global and regional) which provides the motivation, or lack thereof, for missile development, testing, production, acquisition, transfer, possession, deployment and use; the circumstances of transfer to and use of certain types of missile and missile technology by State or non-State actors; the issues of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation; the interrelationship between doctrines, strategies and missile-related behaviour; the relative salience of ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as of missiles used as delivery vehicles for weapons of mass destruction or conventional arms; missile defence; and the increased contribution of space-based capabilities to a wide range of human endeavours.

17. Experts recognized that the complexity of the issue of missiles, which, besides the various different technical aspects, also had strategic, political, economic and commercial implications, had been complicated by divergent perceptions of the nature of the concern. While these aspects made it difficult for the Panel to reach consensus on many missile-related issues, both fundamental and specific, experts nonetheless, identified the following elements for consideration in further discussions of the issue of missiles in all its aspects, without necessarily agreeing on all of them:

(a) The growing military significance of missiles, on account of their main characteristics, under a range of potential uses;

(b) The fact that ballistic and cruise missiles can be armed with conventional or non-conventional warheads. Both variants give rise to distinctive security concerns, both global and regional, which arise not only from their capability to deliver weapons of mass destruction or conventional ordnance but also from the difficulty of distinguishing between a conventionally armed and a non-conventionally armed missile in flight;

(c) The growing use of cruise missiles as a stand-off delivery system of choice for conventional ordnance, for States capable of developing or otherwise acquiring them, notwithstanding the specialized role of other missiles;

(d) The development of missiles with capabilities for increased manoeuvrability and a variety of countermeasures intended to defeat such systems;

(e) The commonalties between missiles and space-launch-vehicle technology, the right of all States to the development and use of space-related technology for peaceful purposes and the need to address security concerns without impinging on the peaceful uses of space-related technologies;

(f) The circumstances of access to and the use of man-portable air defence systems, missiles and their related technology by non-State actors;

(g) The impact on regional and global security of the use of guided and unguided missiles with conventional warheads by States;

(h) The impact on international peace and security of the potential use or threat of use of missiles with warheads carrying weapons of mass destruction by States.

V. Conclusions

18. **The Panel considered it important to have continued international efforts to deal with the increasingly complex issue of missiles in the interest of international peace and security and to deliberate further on the issue, specifically focusing attention on existing and emerging areas of consensus.**

19. **The Panel emphasized the important role of the United Nations in providing a more structured and effective mechanism to build such a consensus.**

20. **The Panel agreed that in view of the complexity of the issue, a step-by-step approach was required, although no specific course of action or combination of actions on the issue of missiles were singled out.**

21. **The Panel noted that it would be useful to try to develop understandings on how to categorize and describe missiles and how their different aspects (strategic, political, technical, economic and commercial) interrelate and their impact on global and regional security scenarios.**

22. **The Panel noted that that step-by-step approach could also include, among other things, efforts to further refine existing national measures of control over transfer and export of missiles and related items, including technology; reporting by States, as appropriate, of missile-related information under the various reporting mechanisms of the United Nations; and efforts to enhance global and regional security, including peaceful settlement of disputes and the promotion of peaceful uses of outer space.**

23. **The Panel also noted that voluntary transparency and confidence-building measures potentially could also be developed by States, as appropriate, in bilateral, regional or global settings with the objective of enhancing predictability, without losing sight of overall disarmament and non-proliferation goals.**

United Nations

A/63/177

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 93 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits to the General Assembly the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from August 2007 to July 2008 and the proposed programme of work and estimated budget for 2008 and 2009.

The report was considered and approved for submission to the General Assembly by the Board of Trustees of the Institute at the fiftieth session of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, held from 9 to 11 July 2008.

* A/63/150.

08-44099 (E) 210808

Report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from August 2007 to July 2008 and the proposed programme of work and budget for 2008-2009

Summary

In 1984, the General Assembly issued a standing request for the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to report on a yearly basis to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute. To that end, the Director prepared the present report covering the activities of the Institute during the period from August 2007 to July 2008 for the consideration of the Board of Trustees of the Institute at the fiftieth session of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, held from 9 to 11 July 2008.

The Director reports that the UNIDIR work programme continued to be centred on three main areas: global security and disarmament, regional security and disarmament, and human security and disarmament, thus addressing the full range of substantive disarmament issues from small arms to weapons in space.

A subvention from the United Nations regular budget is the guarantee of the independence of UNIDIR. The Board of Trustees welcomed the approval by the General Assembly of a subvention for the Institute from the regular budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The Director also reports on the status of the voluntary funds from Governments and philanthropic foundations.

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1	4
II.	Management and staffing	2–3	4
III.	Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	4–5	4
IV.	Recent and planned activities	6–58	5
	A. Global security and disarmament	7–29	5
	B. Regional security and disarmament	30–43	8
	C. Human security and disarmament	44–58	10
V.	Networking	59–66	13
VI.	Publications	67–70	15
VII.	Planned research activities: 2008-2010	71–73	17
Annexes			
I.	Income and expenditure for 2006 and 2007 and estimates for 2008 and 2009		18
II.	Resource requirements: 2006-2009		19
III.	Voluntary contributions for 2006 and 2007 and current status for 2008 and 2009		23
IV.	Current status of estimated income from voluntary sources: 2008		25

I. Introduction

1. The present report covers the activities of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) during the period from August 2007 to July 2008 and the proposed programme of work and estimated budget for 2008 and 2009. The 2007-2008 period covered by the report was characterized by increased outreach and relations with the United Nations system, in particular through the two research projects on security needs assessment and disarmament as humanitarian action.

II. Management and staffing

2. Over the 2007-2008 period, the work of UNIDIR has been carried out with a dedicated total of 24 staff members, 2 of whom were directing staff, 3 support staff (administrative and technical), 5 core substantive programme staff and 12 project research staff. In February 2008, a new Deputy Director, Dr. Christiane Agboton Johnson, was appointed at the Institute.

3. UNIDIR sustained its "young researchers" programme, hosting seven young researchers from six countries. Women are well represented at UNIDIR, comprising two thirds of the staff, including the Director and Deputy Director.

III. Subvention from the United Nations regular budget

4. The Board of Trustees continued to attach utmost importance to the grant of a subvention to the Institute, used to cover the costs of the Director and administration, from a financial perspective as well as to safeguard the autonomy and independence of the Institute. The Trustees welcomed the approval by the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/238, of the subvention to the Institute of 485,500 dollars for the biennium 2008-2009 from the regular budget of the United Nations (cost-adjusted).

5. Continuing support for subvention and cost adjustment is essential to facilitate growth in voluntary income for the Institute. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/272, a note by the Secretary-General on the continuing need for a subvention for UNIDIR was submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on 24 September 2004 (A/C.5/59/3/Add.1). In 2005, in its resolution 60/89, the Assembly recommended that the Secretary-General implement the relevant recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the decisions of the Board of Trustees of the Institute (recommending that costs of the core staff of the Institute should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations) and continue to seek ways to increase the funding of the Institute, within existing resources. In addition, UNIDIR pays an overhead of 5 per cent of its expenditure to the United Nations Office at Geneva for established services[1] and 15 per cent of its expenditure into an operating cash reserve under the terms of United Nations trust funds.[2]

---

[1] Contained in memorandums of understanding with the Division of Administration and Conference Services Division of the United Nations Office at Geneva, dated 16 March 2006 and 11 April 2006, respectively.

[2] ST/SGB/188 of 1 March 1982 and ST/AI/284 of 1 March 1982.

IV. Recent and planned activities

6. The Institute research programme comprises three areas: global security and disarmament; regional security and disarmament; and human security and disarmament.

A. Global security and disarmament

7. Much of the work of UNIDIR focuses on global security and disarmament. This includes research on the implementation of treaties already agreed, current or potential negotiations and the exploration of possible avenues for progress in other areas.

1. Conference on Disarmament

8. UNIDIR continues to be actively engaged in a range of consultations, discussions and seminars on issues pertaining to the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

9. In 2008, under the "six Presidents initiative", UNIDIR continued to provide the Conference on Disarmament with information and discussion forums on matters of substantive concern in order to assist Member States in their deliberations. In the period covered by the present report, UNIDIR held two meetings on each of the following issues: nuclear disarmament; fissile materials; outer space security; and transparency in armaments/complete and general disarmament.

2. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation

10. In May 2008, UNIDIR, in partnership with the Government of Norway and the Nuclear Threat Initiative, held a seminar during the 2008 Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons entitled, "Working towards a world free of nuclear weapons".

11. The joint project of UNIDIR and the Monterey Institute of International Studies on regional organizations and the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which falls under the umbrella project entitled "Working our way to nuclear disarmament", has produced a paper "Implementing resolution 1540 (2004): the role of regional organizations", edited by Lawrence Scheinman. UNIDIR will hold a seminar later in 2008 in New York to discuss the findings of the research.

12. Under the umbrella project "Working our way to nuclear disarmament", UNIDIR is holding a series of meetings on creative approaches to the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In order to gain lessons learned from the negotiations on the Treaty, UNIDIR is in the process of publishing a book by Dr. Rebecca Johnson examining the negotiating history and proposing ways to forward its entry into force.

13. In April 2008, UNIDIR held a seminar on "The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the fissile material cut-off treaty: highways to disarmament" in cooperation with the Government of France and the CTBTO provisional secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

14. Also at the 2008 Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, UNIDIR and the International Panel on Fissile Materials hosted a seminar on "A fissile material cut-off treaty and its verification: progress report from the International Panel on Fissile Materials". On 1 July 2008, UNIDIR marked the fortieth anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by holding a seminar with the Governments of Ireland, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and with two of the original negotiators of the Treaty: Professor Jozef Goldblat (Geneva International Peace Research Institute and UNIDIR) and Ambassador Mohamed Shaker (Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs). The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs opened the seminar.

15. UNIDIR has begun work on a detailed study of the political and legal aspects of multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. Led by Dr. Yuri Yudin, the study will draw on expertise from countries with experience in dealing with the nuclear fuel cycle, the International Panel on Fissile Materials, the Independent Group of Scientific Experts and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

3. Missiles and missile defences

16. UNIDIR worked with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (formerly the Department for Disarmament Affairs) to implement General Assembly resolution 59/67 on the issue of missiles in all its aspects (see A/61/168). UNIDIR was also commissioned as a consultant to the 2007-2008 Group of Governmental Experts on Missiles in All Their Aspects, which completed its work in June 2008.

4. Biological and chemical weapons

17. The Geneva Forum (UNIDIR, the Quaker United Nations Office and the Graduate Institute of International Studies) has held a series of meetings over several years on the issue of biological weapons. As part of this effort, in December 2007 the Institute held a meeting to discuss the reports on research findings on participation in confidence-building measures of the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention entitled "Building confidence in the biological and toxin weapons convention: the way forward", which was co-hosted with the Government of Switzerland.

18. At the Geneva Forum there was also a discussion meeting on "How arms control's past shapes its future: biological disarmament as a case study".

19. On 12 June 2008, UNIDIR participated in a seminar hosted at Geneva by the Office for Disarmament Affairs on the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention, which was aimed at francophone countries, particularly in Africa, and was intended to promote the universalization of the Convention.

5. Space technologies and space law

20. On 31 March and 1 April 2008, in partnership with the Governments of Canada, China and the Russian Federation, the Secure World Foundation and the Simons Foundation, UNIDIR hosted its annual two-day conference on outer space security, entitled "Security in space: the next generation". A conference report was

circulated as a document of the Conference on Disarmament on 23 June 2008 (CD/1844) and the conference's proceedings will be published later in the year.

21. In November 2007, UNIDIR published the proceedings of its 2007 conference, which was held on the theme "Celebrating the space age: 50 years of space technology, 40 years of the outer space treaty". A summary of the conference had already been circulated as a document of the Conference on Disarmament (CD/1829) by Canada.

22. In October 2007, UNIDIR and the Global Security Institute jointly organized a seminar on the margins of the meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly on the topic "Exploring cooperative approaches to security in space".

23. In October 2007, UNIDIR participated in the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations Forum, entitled "Civil society and outer space", at which the following question was asked: Where do we stand on using outer space for peaceful purposes? The Director of UNIDIR was the keynote speaker on the topic of safeguarding space.

6. Implementing treaties

24. UNIDIR, with the assistance of the Verification, Training and Information Centre, provided expert consultancy to the Panel of Government Experts on verification in all its aspects, including on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification during 2006-2007. The report of the panel was issued on 15 August 2007 (A/61/1028). In June 2008, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published the report in its Disarmament Study Series (No. 32).

25. In cooperation with the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, UNIDIR is continuing a research programme, initiated in 2001, to study the role of regional bodies in implementing global treaties. The research, headed by Dr. Lawrence Scheinman, includes a number of activities with regard to the new focus on Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) by regional organizations, with a view to assessing the value of devolving implementation activities to such bodies. The first publication entitled *Implementing resolution 1540 (2004): The Role of Regional Organizations* was issued in July 2008.

7. Security and disarmament thinking

26. UNIDIR is currently in the process of preparing a new edition of its lexicon of arms control, disarmament and security terms, *Coming to Terms with Security: a Lexicon for Arms Control, Disarmament and Confidence-building* (Arabic, French, Hungarian, Korean and Spanish versions). The French version is posted on the UNIDIR website.

27. UNIDIR's multi-year research project entitled "Disarmament as humanitarian action: making multilateral negotiations work" aims at rethinking and reframing the ways and means of international arms control and disarmament processes so that the focus of international efforts is on practical steps to benefit humanity. The project has produced four volumes of work thus far, the most recent being "The value of diversity in multilateral disarmament work". Under the project a series of workshops are being held in collaboration with the Geneva Forum under the rubric of "Thinking differently about human security". The purpose of the workshops is to

engage multilateral practitioners and others on issues confronting disarmament-related efforts and to help them reframe and respond to these challenges in more creative and effective ways.

28. Involving the private sector in efforts to prevent conflict has found increasing support both from parties working in the area of conflict prevention and the business community. The UNIDIR project "Creating a new dynamic for public-private partnerships for peaceful and sustainable development: human security and equitable access to resources", undertaken in conjunction with the Economic Commission for Europe and the University of Geneva, was completed in May 2008. Aimed at assessing the extent to which international companies, working with Governments and civil society, can support development and security through such partnerships, a publication on the project is being produced by the University of Geneva.

29. Information management and information security are two aspects of the information age that have major implications for international peace, security and disarmament. The third issue of *Disarmament Forum* in 2007 focused on aspects of information and communications technology (ICT) and international security. In October 2007, UNIDIR held a seminar to launch the publication on the margins of the meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly. The Institute also held a two-day, in-depth seminar in April 2008 on information and communications technology and international security. Due to growing interest in this topic, selected presentations from the seminar will be posted on the UNIDIR website as audio files later in 2008. Further work on this subject is planned for 2009.

B. Regional security and disarmament

30. Regional security has always been a priority of the UNIDIR research programme. In recent years, UNIDIR focused on Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, North-East Asia, South Asia and Central Asia. In June 2008, UNIDIR and the Government of France co-hosted a seminar on "Conventional arms control and disarmament: new avenues", which specifically highlighted regional aspects of conventional issues.

1. Peacekeeping

31. In order to support peacekeeping efforts and further the objectives of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), UNIDIR has been carrying out a multi-year project entitled "Including women in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes through better research, training and education". The project has produced inputs for a number of peacekeeping training courses and the United Nations Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards and has helped to identify the gaps and responses required for effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

32. UNIDIR is considering developing a combined approach to the issues of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and women within the framework of its "Security needs assessment" project, focusing, in particular, on addressing the security needs of refugee and displaced women in the Middle East and Africa.

33. The UNIDIR multi-year project to develop a security needs assessment protocol for use by United Nations agencies in post-conflict, post-crisis environments is progressing as planned. The aim is to assist key post-conflict development actors in assessing the needs of local communities that have been affected by conflict or other crises. The work is heavily dependent on intertwining the knowledge bases of the fields of security, conflict prevention, development and anthropology. Full-time research began in September 2006, preliminary field testing and research took place in Ghana with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the University of Ghana in May 2007 and a further full field test took place in Nepal with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in March 2008. A draft protocol is near completion. A report outlining the purposes of the protocol entitled "The security needs assessment protocol: improving operational effectiveness through community security", was published in April 2008 and a conference on community security and operational effectiveness was held on 16 June 2008.

34. The next phase of the project is to validate the protocol's capabilities in 2009. UNIDIR is currently discussing prospects with potential partners.

35. In 2005, UNIDIR began a project, with support from the Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship programme of the European Commission, to study the European Union and United Nations planning for crisis management and peacebuilding. The project reviews best practices, inter-institutional learning and prospects for the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. UNIDIR is actively contributing to the Geneva Centre for Security Policy project and the International Geneva Peacebuilding Guide. Further work aimed at strengthening the work of the Peacebuilding Commission is being developed.

2. Latin America

36. A special focus of the UNIDIR/Monterey Institute of International Studies project on the role of regional organizations in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) is on Latin America and Latin American regional security structures, with particular focus on the role that the Organization of American States could play in strengthening the ability of its member States to prevent non-State actors from obtaining weapons of mass destruction.

3. Asia and the Pacific

37. The fourth issue of *Disarmament Forum* in 2007 focused on the regional security issues of Central Asia, including border security, trafficking networks, the region's nuclear-weapon-free zone, small arms stockpile management and resource security.

38. In March 2008, under the security needs assessment protocol project, a three-week field test was carried out in Biratnagar and Saptari, Nepal, with the participation of UNICEF. The test focused on children associated with armed forces and groups. Information about the community security needs in these regions is being generated for publication later in 2008.

39. The UNIDIR project "International assistance for implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects" is developing a mechanism to assist

with matching needs and resources with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Pacific region will serve as the next test case for the mechanism in August 2008 and the Web-based mechanism will be included in the Programme of Action implementation support system.

4. The Middle East

40. UNIDIR continues to explore the possibilities for a weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the Middle East, and in a special issue of *Disarmament Forum* on "arms control in the Middle East" published in mid-2008, explored options for a new arms control dialogue in the Middle East.

41. In 2009, UNIDIR plans to hold a series of meetings to explore what a regional security framework in the Middle East might entail. The meetings will study the range, scope and geography of a possible permanent framework for security and disarmament in the region.

5. Africa

42. A project on international assistance for implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was conducted in East Africa as the first test case for a mechanism to assist with matching needs and resources with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action. The results have been issued as "International assistance for implementing the Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: case study of East Africa", which is also available electronically in French and Spanish.

43. The security needs assessment protocol project carried out a test of the protocol in northern Ghana in May and June 2007. Working with experts from the University of Ghana, the research team was able to develop a working model for the execution of the protocol and to generate information beyond the original scope of the test. Further work to test the draft protocol in the Horn of Africa is being planned for 2009-2010.

C. Human security and disarmament

44. UNIDIR is involved in academic and policy discussions on the topic of human security. The "disarmament as humanitarian action" project has been viewed as an important contribution to the current thinking on new approaches to security. The work carried out by UNIDIR on small arms and light weapons, explosive remnants of war, cluster munitions and health security has also made a significant contribution in this field.

1. Geneva Forum meetings on small arms

45. The Geneva Forum is a collaborative programme between UNIDIR, the Quaker United Nations Office and the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies. Part of the work of the Forum involves the organization of a series of discussions in Geneva on controlling the spread of small arms and light weapons. A number of seminars have been held on the issue, including a residential workshop in

June 2008 on "Forward thinking on a practical implementation agenda for the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons".

46. In the past year, the Geneva Forum held seven meetings of the Geneva Process, a discussion forum on the implementation of the Programme of Action that includes working groups on related issues, including the thematic areas of the Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action (July 2008) and the general issue of the effective functioning of the meetings of States process.

2. Capacity-building for implementing the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

47. UNDP, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, UNIDIR and the Small Arms Survey have an ongoing joint project to develop analyses of the reports made to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action in order to assess its implementation and better ascertain where capacity-building is most needed. The draft report was presented at the Third Biennial Meeting of States, and it will be issued in final form later in 2008.

48. The database development project of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism facilitates the collation and dissemination of information among the members of the mechanism, Member States and the public in general. UNIDIR is an active member and has developed the country profiles section, including brief needs assessments, as well as an inventory of relevant expertise existing in Member States that could be mobilized to provide assistance.

49. As a result of requests from Member States at the Second Biennial Meeting of States in 2005, UNIDIR has carried out research to assess the actual and requested levels of financial and technical assistance for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The first set of results, published as "International assistance for implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects", was presented at the first United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action in 2006. An interactive website is under development to help connect States in need of assistance with donor States. This website was featured at the Third Biennial Meeting and will be integrated into the Programme of Action implementation support system.

3. Preparing for an arms trade treaty

50. In January 2008, the Geneva Forum held a seminar on "Next steps towards an arms trade treaty: the group of governmental experts", at which the issues pertaining to the forthcoming arms trade treaty were explored. A seminar entitled "Towards an effective arms trade treaty: informal intersessional meeting" was held in July 2008.

51. Through its two-part study, "Analysis of States' views on an arms trade treaty", UNIDIR compiled and analysed views of Member States submitted under General Assembly resolution 61/89. The analysis was presented to the First Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. The findings of the second part of the study, an in-depth analysis of the elements required for an arms

trade treaty, were presented at expert meetings, including to the Group of Government Experts established by the above-mentioned resolution.

52. UNIDIR is organizing regional discussions, with the support of the European Union, on issues pertaining to an arms trade treaty, to take place in 2009. It is hoped that the concerns of Member States can be better addressed within a regional context than in large multinational settings. UNIDIR plans to partner with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique in organizing the discussions.

4. Landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war

53. In September 2007, UNIDIR, in partnership with the Government of France, held a seminar entitled "The way forward on cluster munitions: humanitarian impacts and international responses", at which the humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions, ways to respond effectively to the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions and the international responses to date were discussed.

54. The UNIDIR publication, *The Humanitarian Impact of Cluster Munitions*, issued in early 2008, examines the immediate and long-term humanitarian and socio-economic impact of cluster munition contamination on civilian populations and includes case studies on Lebanon and Cambodia. The book presents an overview of the ways in which such contamination affects the daily lives, opportunities and prospects of ordinary people.

55. In early 2008, UNIDIR launched a project entitled "*The road from Oslo: analysis of negotiations to address the humanitarian effects of cluster munitions*", a continuation of part one of the UNIDIR project "*Disarmament as humanitarian action: making multilateral negotiations work*". The 18-month-long study will document the Oslo process and related work, including within the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and will develop relevant lessons learned for multilateral practitioners. The main project outputs will comprise seminars with policymakers and civil society actors and an analytical history of the Oslo process, to be published in the second half of 2009.

56. The Geneva Forum has held a number of informal brainstorming discussions on the way forward on cluster munitions. In October 2007, the Forum held a briefing for diplomats on addressing the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions and in February 2008 a meeting entitled "From Vienna to Wellington: update on the Oslo process on cluster munitions". Special briefings on the issue for African delegations were held in February and March 2008 and further discussions are planned for late 2008.

57. Throughout 2008, UNIDIR has been engaged in a project executed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs on promoting the universalization of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, a joint action between the European Union and the Office for Disarmament Affairs to promote the universalization of the Convention through regional seminars in various parts of the world.

5. Preventing the spread of weapons to non-State armed groups

58. Over the last decade, there has been an increasing awareness of the dangers posed by international terrorism and the activities of non-State armed groups. In September 2007, UNIDIR held a seminar to consider the wider aspects of

preventing the spread of weapons to non-State armed groups and to develop ideas on further action for a more integrated approach. In addition, the *Disarmament Forum*, issue No. 1, 2008, explored how to engage non-State armed groups in disarmament processes.

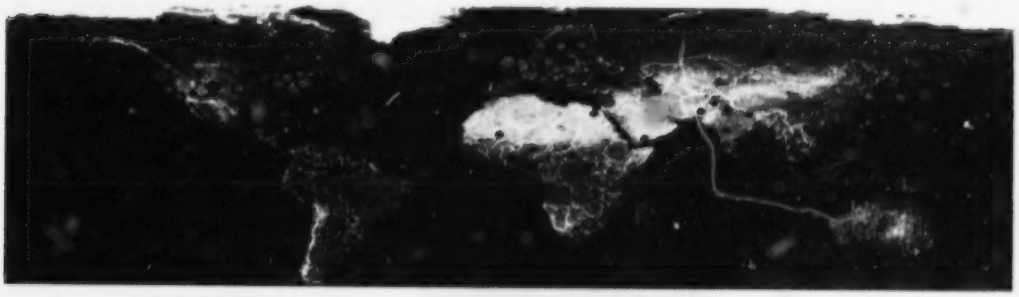
V. Networking

59. One of the main functions of the Institute is to cooperate actively with specialized agencies, organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and with other organizations active in the field of disarmament. UNIDIR also has a number of formal and informal programmes and working arrangements with a wide selection of institutes, centres and universities around the world.

Electronic networking

60. *Disarmament Insight*, a collaborative effort of the "Disarmament as humanitarian action" project and the Geneva Forum, was launched in April 2007. This is an innovative outreach mechanism providing Web-based resources, including a research blog, through which new material is regularly posted on a variety of themes and links to audio presentations (podcasts) are given at *Disarmament Insight* workshops. In just over one year, the *Disarmament Insight* website had received almost 30,000 visitors (see figure 1 below).

Figure 1
Distribution of interest in *Disarmament Insight*



As part of its outreach activities, UNIDIR has also developed its Web presence via social networking sites.

Disarmament Forum

61. UNIDIR publishes a bilingual quarterly journal, *Disarmament Forum*, which will mark its tenth anniversary in 2009. Each issue addresses a theme related to security and disarmament, with papers by experts focusing on the theme and shorter articles on other subjects. The journal is available online in its entirety. Articles from *Disarmament Forum* are now available through the International Relations and Security Network.

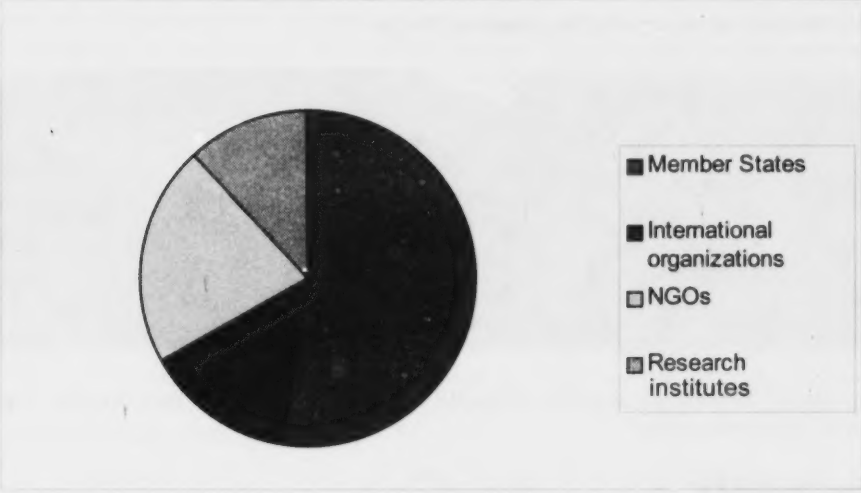
Education for disarmament

62. For the last three years, the Geneva Forum has held annual day-long workshops to introduce disarmament and security issues to incoming diplomats to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The most recent workshop entitled, "Working on disarmament and arms control in Geneva: an orientation for diplomats" was held in February 2008.

63. The Government of Japan and UNIDIR hosted a side-event on "Disarmament and non-proliferation education" on 30 April 2008 during the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in Geneva. Panellists at the event discussed different practical ways to teach disarmament and non-proliferation. In particular, the event drew on stories from the *hibakusha*, survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and explored ways to incorporate first-person testimony into disarmament education activities. Audio files of the presentations are available (www.unidir.org) as is a report of the seminar (http://cns.miis.edu/pubs/week/080522_edu.htm).

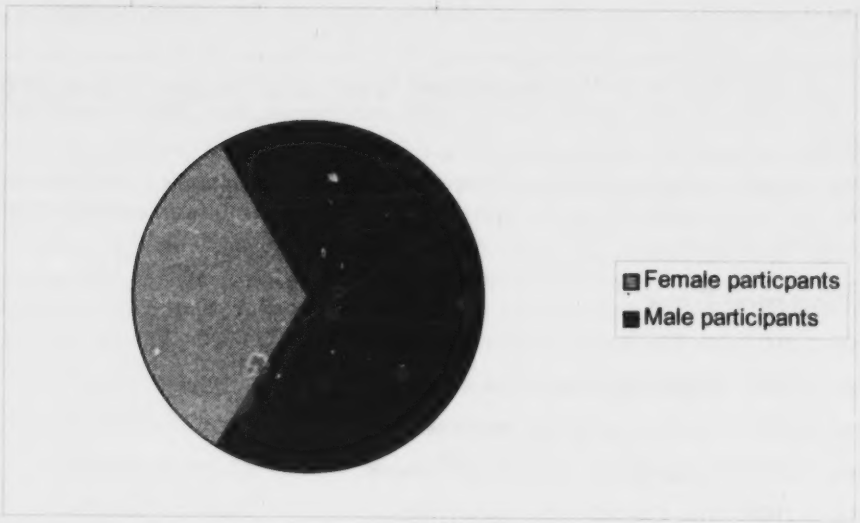
Conferences, seminars and discussion meetings

Figure 2
Participants at UNIDIR conferences 2007-2008



64. UNIDIR holds a range of different types of research meetings, both in Geneva and in different regions around the world. The meetings are held with the purpose of examining issues of security, arms control and disarmament and of fostering cooperation with and among research institutes in the areas concerned. The Geneva Forum held 23 meetings in the last year. UNIDIR has held 13 conferences and workshops in Geneva, New York and Vienna over the past year. UNIDIR strives for gender balance when selecting speakers and experts for its conferences and has had more success with some issues than with others in this regard.

Figure 3
Gender ratio at UNIDIR meetings



Collaboration with other institutions

65. UNIDIR has continued to increase the number of institutes with which it collaborates for research projects and meetings. In addition, in 2007 UNIDIR became a principal partner of the International Relations and Security Network and is contributing UNIDIR publications to its electronic publishing house.

Fellowship programme and young researchers programme

66. The UNIDIR fellowship programme brings visiting research fellows to Geneva for a period of one to six months, offering them a unique opportunity and a chance for the Institute to improve the quality of its work.

VI. Publications

67. In April 2008, the UNIDIR publication programme launched its new design. Several new outreach materials using this new visual identity are under development.

68. UNIDIR is preparing a large number of publications for the coming months. They include the quarterly journal *Disarmament Forum*, specifically its tenth anniversary issue, and books and research reports.

69. Between July 2007 and June 2008, UNIDIR issued the following publications:

Books

Celebrating the Space Age: 50 Years of Space Technology, 40 Years of the Outer Space Treaty, Conference Report, 2-3 April 2007 (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.07.0.8).

Analysis of States' Views on an Arms Trade Treaty, Sarah Parker, October 2007.

Implications of States' Views on an Arms Trade Treaty, Sarah Parker, January 2008.

The Humanitarian Impact of Cluster Munitions, UNIDIR, 2008 (UNIDIR/2008/1).

International Assistance for Implementing the United Nations Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Case Study of East Africa, K. Maze and H. Rhee (English and Spanish, May 2008) (French, July 2008).

The Security Needs Assessment Protocol: Improving Operational Effectiveness through Community Security, Derek B. Miller and Lisa Rudnick, 2008 (UNIDIR/2008/4).

Disarmament Forum

No. 2, 2007: The Peacebuilding Commission

No. 3, 2007: Its and International Security

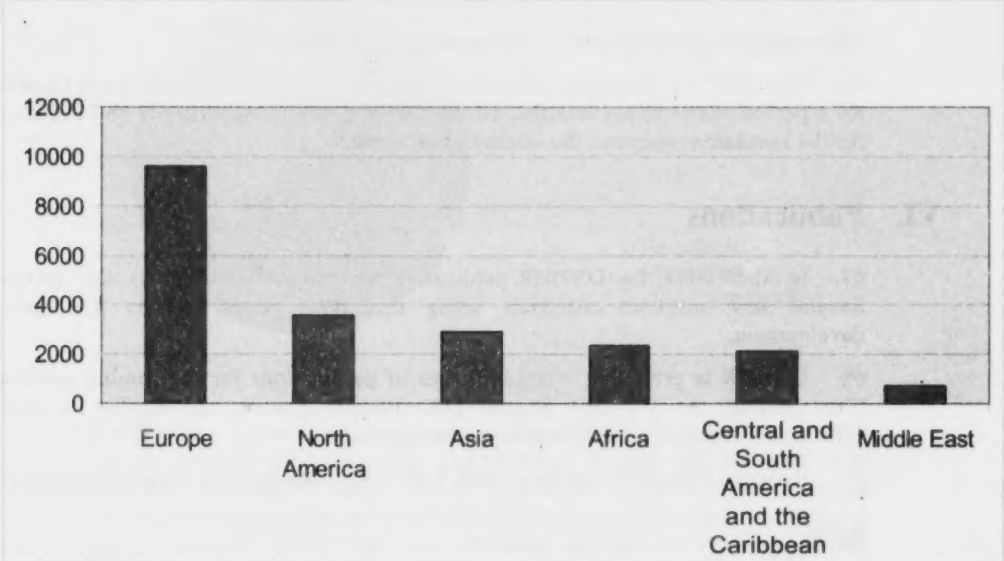
No. 4, 2007: Central Asia at the Crossroads

No. 1, 2008: Engaging Non-State Armed Groups

No. 2, 2008: Arms Control in the Middle East

70. During the reporting period (July 2007-July 2008), UNIDIR publications were distributed regionally as follows:

Figure 4
UNIDIR publications distribution by region (July 2007-July 2008)



Over the past year UNIDIR has been trying to increase its outreach activities to Asia, to match the previous success experienced in Africa. Although in per capita distribution terms, the increase is not huge, in terms of ratio, UNIDIR has made significant progress.

VII. Planned research activities: 2008-2010

71. The UNIDIR research programme has a long-term approach, ranging between two and five years, although many of the projects such as meetings and analyses have short timespans.

72. The UNIDIR proposed programme of work for 2008-2009 will see a continuation of the work on the global, regional and human security aspect of disarmament. Specific research projects include the following, for which UNIDIR is seeking funds:

- The negotiation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
- Multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle
- Outer space security
- Information security and cyberwarfare
- Disarmament as humanitarian action
- Security needs assessment protocol
- United Nations-European Union cooperation in peacebuilding
- Women and security
- Regional security framework in the Middle East
- A weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the Middle East
- Programme of action on small arms and light weapons: reporting analysis
- Programme of action on matching needs and resources: cost-effective international assistance
- Cluster munitions and the Oslo process
- Universalization of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
- The arms trade treaty: regional analysis
- Disarmament and non-proliferation education

73. In addition, UNIDIR will continue its work within the Geneva Forum and through other networking activities and to publish the *Disarmament Forum*, the tenth anniversary issue of which will be issued in 2009.

Annex I

Income and expenditure for 2006 and 2007 and estimates for 2008 and 2009

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Item	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 (estimates)*	*2009 (estimates)*
A. Funds available at the beginning of the year	1 499.4	1 667.7[a]	1 667.3[b]	987.5[c]
B. Income:				
Voluntary contributions and public donations	2 558.7[d]	2 104.5[e]	1 437.6[f]	822.0[g]
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	223.5	262.0	242.7	242.8
Other inter-organizational contributions	194.5[d]	18.0[e]	30.0[f]	0.0
Interest income	54.4	72.1	50.0	20.0
Miscellaneous income	13.7	12.7	0.4	0.0
Total income	**3 044.8**	**2 469.3**	**1 760.7**	**1 084.8**
C. Prior period adjustments	-0.1	0.0	-10.0[h]	0.0
D. Prior period obligations	14.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
E. Total funds available	4 558.7	4 137.0	3 418.0	2 072.3
F. Expenditure	2 891.0	2 469.7	2 430.5	1 784.5
H. Fund balance at the end of the year	1 667.7[a]	1 667.3[b]	987.5[c]	287.8[i]

[a] Includes $284,500 required as operating cash reserve for 2006.
[b] Includes $292,300 required as operating cash reserve for 2007.
[c] Includes $293,400 required as operating cash reserve for 2008.
[d] See annex III for details of UNIDIR 2006 income from voluntary sources.
[e] See annex III for details of UNIDIR 2007 income from voluntary sources.
[f] See annex III for details of UNIDIR 2008 estimated income from voluntary sources.
[g] See annex III for details of UNIDIR 2009 estimated income from voluntary sources. The estimates for 2009 contributions are conservative. Experience has shown that they may be much higher, but this cannot be guaranteed.
[h] Reversal of the contribution of Mexico of $10,000.
[i] Includes $223,900 required as operating cash reserve for 2009.

Annex II

Resource requirements: 2006-2009

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Resource requirements	*2006 (1)*	*2007 (2)*	*2008[a] (estimates) (3)*	*2009[a] (estimates) (4)*	*Increase/ decrease (4-3)*
A. Direct administrative costs					
Salaries and related staff costs	663.7	461.8	685.5	763.4	77.9
General temporary assistance	17.4	19.2	25.0	10.0	-15.0
Temporary assistance for meetings	0.8	13.5	15.0	5.0	-10.0
Consultants' fees and travel	112.7	89.4	80.8	50.0	-30.8
Ad hoc expert groups	112.1	122.1	203.2	94.0	-109.2
Personal service contract	1 714.6	1 490.1	1 129.2	690.5	-438.7
Official travel of staff	96.7	123.0	141.7	54.3	-87.4
Other external printing	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
Training	0.0	3.3	4.0	4.0	0.0
Contractual services	1.9	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0
Hospitality	10.4	12.3	13.0	6.0	-7.0
Premises: rental and maintenance	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.0
Rental of office equipment	6.6	6.6	7.0	7.0	0.0
Rental of conference service equipment	1.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.0
Maintenance costs	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PSC — UNDP country office costs	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bank charges	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0
Communication	0.0	0.1	1.2	6.2	5.0
Acquisition of office equipment[b]	6.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.0
Acquisition, software packages	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Replacement, EDP equipment	0.2	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Stationary and office supplies	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.0
Paper for internal reproduction	9.6	0.0	12.0	12.0	0.0
Subscriptions and standing orders	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.2	0.0
Library books and supplies	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.0
Other supplies	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total A	**2 757.9**	**2 352.2**	**2 326.3**	**1 711.1**	**-615.2**
B. Programme support costs (5% of total A, less United Nations subvention)	133.1	117.5	104.2	73.4	-30.7
Total expenditure (Total A + B)	**2 891.0**	**2 469.7**	**2 430.5**	**1 784.5**	**-646.0**

Resource requirements	*2006 (1)*	*2007 (2)*	*2008[c] (estimates) (3)*	*2009[a] (estimates) (4)*	*Increase/ decrease (4-3)*
C. Operating cash reserve (15% of expenditure on contributions other than from the European Union, less United Nations subvention, and 5% on contributions from the European Union)	284.5	292.3	293.4	223.9	-69.5
Grand total A + B + C	**3 175.5**	**2 762.0**	**2 723.9**	**2 008.4**	**-715.5**

[a] These figures may be increased upon the confirmation of current funding proposals.

[b] Provision for acquisition of office equipment for 2008 and 2009 is low because UNIDIR is establishing a cooperative programme for IT equipment with the inventory and purchase sections of the United Nations Office at Geneva that will result in the recycling of office equipment and reduced costs.

A. Direct programme and administrative costs for 2009

Pending approval of current fund-raising applications, the provisions made for research programmes and administrative costs are minimal. They will be increased, however, as funding is provided.

Salaries and related staff costs: $763,400. These estimated requirements are needed to cover the salaries and related staff costs of UNIDIR regular staff. The current Director is leaving in the course of 2008 and a new Director is expected at the beginning of 2009. In 2009 the regular staff will consist of the Director (D-2), the Deputy Director (D-1) and 2 General Service staff. The total estimated requirements under this heading are based on the standard salary costs applicable to Geneva (version 4) and reflect an increase of $77,900 over the 2008 revised requirements, mainly due to the exchange rate of the United States dollar to the Swiss franc and the installation costs for the new Director.

General temporary assistance: $10,000. This provision, reflecting a decrease of $15,000 over the 2008 revised estimates, will be used to cover temporary assistance UNIDIR project managers might require in 2009.

Temporary assistance for meetings: $5,000. This provision will be needed to cover temporary assistance for UNIDIR meetings in 2009. It represents a $10,000 decrease over the 2008 revised budget estimates.

Consultants' fees and travel: $50,000. This provision will be needed to hire the services of consultants for the study on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty ($30,000), and in multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle ($20,000). It represents a decrease of $30,800 over the 2008 estimated requirements.

Ad hoc expert groups: $94,000. This provision, reflecting a decrease of $109,200 over the 2008 budget requirements, will be needed to cover the travel expenses of experts participating in the 2009 outer space conference ($40,000), the expert group meetings for the project on the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty ($8,500), multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle ($13,000), "The road from Oslo, analysis of the negotiations to address the humanitarian

effects of cluster munitions" ($2,500) and three seminars funded by the Government of France ($30,000).

Personal service contracts: $690,500. This provision will be needed to extend the contracts of the in-house staff working on current projects. In 2000, these contracts have been brought into line with regular United Nations contracts and in 2001 the related functions have been graded by the Office of Human Resources Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva. In 2002 the salaries were increased to bring net salaries in line with the related gradings. The estimated requirements reflect a decrease of $438,700 over the 2008 revised requirements, as several projects are coming to an end in 2008. As new projects are funded and established, this provision will increase.

Official travel of staff: $54,300. The estimated requirements for travel of staff in 2009 reflect a decrease of $87,400 over the revised 2008 revised estimates and will be used for project-related travel, including for the study on multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle ($26,000), the analysis of negotiations to address the humanitarian effects of cluster munitions ($9,000), as well as travel not related to projects, including fund-raising ($19,300). The Director and members of the staff receive invitations to conferences and seminars, which have to be declined because of the limited travel budget of UNIDIR. On the other hand, they also receive a number of invitations where the costs are covered by the host institution: such travel will, at times, be combined with UNIDIR missions, thereby reducing costs to the Institute. Travel for fund-raising purposes will, as far as possible, be combined with travel for other purposes.

Other external printing: $1,000. UNIDIR is building its new visual identity, a component of which is graphic redesign of its publications. This provision will be needed to purchase photos for the cover pages of publications.

Other specialized training: $4,000. This provision reflecting no change over the revised 2008 budget requirements will be needed for continuous learning activities.

Other contractual services: $2,400. This provision, reflecting no change over the 2008 budget requirements, will be needed to extend the existing contractual services for the website and services related to the data-processing equipment.

Hospitality: $6,000. The estimated requirements for hospitality in 2009 reflect a decrease of $7,000 over the 2008 revised estimates and will be mainly used to cover hospitality extended to participants at UNIDIR seminars.

Premises: rental and maintenance: $1,000. This provision, reflecting no change over the 2008 revised estimates, will be needed to cover the rental of conference rooms during field research missions in 2009.

Rental of office equipment: $7,000. This provision, reflecting no change over the 2008 revised estimates, will be used to cover the rental of the photocopier and fax equipment.

Rental of conference service equipment: $500. This provision will be needed to cover the servicing of UNIDIR conferences in 2009. It reflects no change over the 2008 revised budget estimates.

Bank charges: $600. This provision will be needed to cover bank charges in 2009. It reflects no change over the 2008 revised budget estimates.

Communication: $6,200. This provision will be needed to reimburse the United Nations Office at Geneva for its share in the fixed and mobile phone usage costs and to pay traffic-related costs. These estimated requirements represent an increase of $5,000 over the 2008 revised estimates and may increase in the event that UNIDIR organizes field missions.

Acquisition of office equipment: $1,000. This provision, reflecting no change over the 2008 estimated requirements, is made in case UNIDIR needs to purchase IT equipment that cannot be obtained through the arrangement described in footnote 2 above.

Stationary and office supplies: $500. This provision, reflecting no change over the 2008 estimated requirements, will be needed to purchase office supplies in 2009.

Paper for internal reproduction: $12,000. The estimated requirements under this heading will be used to purchase the paper for the production of *Disarmament Forum*. They reflect no change over the 2008 revised requirements.

Subscription and standing orders: $1,200. This provision, reflecting no change over the 2008 resources requirements, will be used to extend the current subscriptions.

Library books and supplies: $500. This provision, reflecting no change over the 2008 budget requirements, will be used to purchase specialized books.

B. Programme support costs

A provision of $73,400 representing 5 per cent of the total estimated expenditure less the amount of the United Nations regular budget subvention of $242,800, will be needed for programme support costs in 2009.

C. Operating cash reserve

In compliance with administrative instruction ST/AI/284, an amount of $223,900 will be kept as operating cash reserve. It represents 15 per cent of the total 2009 estimated expenditure funded from extrabudgetary resources — except for the expenditure funded by the European Commission for which it represents 5 per cent.

Annex III

Voluntary contributions for 2006 and 2007 and current status for 2008 and 2009

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Voluntary contributions	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[a]	*2009*[a]
A. Governmental contributions				
Australia			98 530	
Austria	82 898		78 864	
Canada	75 862	104 066	15 317	15 000
China		35 000	19 985	20 000
Finland	23 669	53 763	60 500	60 000
France	333 000	48 300	300 000	300 000
India		4 982	5 000	5 000
Ireland		10 000	30 000	
Israel		8 995	10 000	10 000
Japan		30 000	32 625	20 000
Luxembourg	5 974	6 485	7 396	7 000
Mexico	20 000			
Netherlands	137 964	257 178	125 603	
New Zealand	12 769		23 788	
Norway	860 129	495 340	151 000	100 000
Republic of Korea[b]	30 000		20 000	20 000
Russian Federation	49 974	100 000	100 000	100 000
Sweden	280 255	289 000	65 000	65 000
Switzerland	85 663	59 400	82 000	70 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		35 440	86 785	
United States of America	43 400	150 000		
Total Governmental contributions	**2 041 557**	**1 687 949**	**1 312 393**	**792 000**
B. Public donations				
European Commission	448 718	226 749		
Graduate Institute for International Studies	1 922	6 560	3 588	
Marie Curie Foundation		121 118	73 700	
Miscellaneous	955			
Northeastern University		3 000		
Simons Foundation	26 154	17 213	38 780	30 000
University of Geneva	39 394	41 894	9 174	
Total public donations	**517 143**	**416 534**	**125 242**	**30 000**
Total voluntary contributions (A + B)	**2 558 700**	**2 104 483**	**1 437 635**	**822 000**

Voluntary contributions	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[a]*	*2009[a]*
C. Inter-organization				
Office for Disarmament Affairs	95 000	18 000	30 000	
United Nations Development Programme	94 483			
United Nations Children's Fund	5 000			
Total inter-organization	**194 483**	**18 000**	**30 000**	**0**
Grand total (A + B + C)	**2 753 183**	**2 122 483**	**1 467 635**	**822 000**

[a] These figures will be increased upon the confirmation of current funding proposals.

[b] Two contributions from the Republic of Korea of $10,000 each, paid in New York in late December 2004 and late December 2005, were registered, respectively, in 2005 and 2006. The table shows a $20,000 contribution from the Republic of Korea for 2008. This contribution was paid in December 2007 but earmarked for 2008, as requested by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva in its note to UNIDIR dated 10 December 2007.

Annex IV

Current status of estimated income from voluntary sources: 2008

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Donor	*Total amount of contributions*	*To be used for*	
		Special project	*Other purposes (including administrative costs)*
A. Governmental contributions			
Australia[a]	98 530	83 751	14 780
Austria[b]	78 864	67 034	11 830
Canada[c]	15 317	13 019	2 298
China[c]	19 985	16 987	2 998
Finland[a]	60 500	51 425	9 075
France[d]	300 000	41 055	258 945
India	5 000	4 250	750
Ireland[a]	30 000	25 500	4 500
Israel	10 000	8 500	1 500
Japan[e]	32 625	27 731	4 894
Luxembourg	7 396	6 287	1 109
Netherlands[f]	125 603	106 762	18 840
New Zealand[a]	23 788	20 220	3 568
Norway[g]	151 000	40 800	110 200
Republic of Korea[b]	20 000	17 000	3 000
Russian Federation[h]	100 000	85 000	15 000
Sweden[b]	65 000	55 250	9 750
Switzerland[i]	82 000	8 000	74 000
United Kingdom[b]	86 785	73 767	13 018
Total Governmental contributions	**1 312 393**	**752 338**	**560 055**
B. Public donations			
Graduate Institute for International Studies	3 588	3 050	538
Marie Curie Foundation[j]	73 700	62 645	11 055
Simons Foundation[c]	38 780	32 963	5 817
University of Geneva[k]	9 174	7 798	1 376
Total public donations	**125 242**	**106 456**	**18 786**
Total voluntary contributions (A + B)	**1 437 635**	**858 794**	**578 841**

Donor	*Total amount of contributions*	*To be used for*	
		Special project	*Other purposes (including administrative costs)*
C. Inter-organization			
Office for Disarmament Affairs[l]	30 000	25 500	4 500
Total inter-organization	**30 000**	**25 500**	**4 500**
Grand total (A + B + C)	**1 467 635**	**884 294**	**583 341**
Percentage	**100.00**	**60.25**	**39.75**

[a] For international assistance for implementing the United Nations Programme of Action.
[b] For multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle.
[c] For the conference on security in space: the next generation.
[d] For the Deputy Director's post; $10,000 for the French Translation of *Disarmament Forum*; and $30,000 for the costs of seminars to be held during 2008.
[e] $20,625 for analysis of governmental reports on the Programme of Action; and $12,000 for the seminar on disarmament and non-proliferation education.
[f] $112,187.50 for the security needs assessment protocol; and $13,114 for the disarmament as humanitarian action programme.
[g] $100,000 for core funding; and $51,000 for activities related to the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.
[h] $10,000 for the conference on security in space: the next generation; $65,000 for multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle; and $15,000 for the conference on information and communications technologies and international security.
[i] $76,785 for core funding; and $10,000 for the analysis of governmental reports on the Programme of Action.
[j] For the project on European Union and United Nations planning for crisis management and peacebuilding: promoting best practice and inter-institutional learning.
[k] $19,166 for creating a new dynamic for public-private partnerships for peaceful and sustainable development: human security and equitable access to resources.
[l] $20,000 for the Group of Government Experts on Missiles in All Its Aspects; and $10,000 for the analysis of governmental reports on the Programme of Action.

United Nations A/63/178

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 92 (f) of the provisional agenda*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains an account of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific during the period from July 2007 to June 2008.

The reporting period marked a turning point in the operation of the Centre as significant positive developments paved the way for its physical relocation to the region. On 20 July 2007, the United Nations and the Government of Nepal signed the host country agreement and a memorandum of understanding on the relocation of the Centre to Kathmandu.

At its sixty-second session, the General Assembly unanimously welcomed the relocation of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific to Kathmandu, and requested the Secretary-General to expedite the necessary preparations to enable the Centre to function effectively.

Working closely with the Government of Nepal, through its Permanent Mission to the United Nations, and with the valuable assistance of the United Nations Development Programme in Nepal, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs was able to finalize in a smooth and timely manner the preparations necessary for the relocation of the Centre to Kathmandu, and for its inauguration scheduled to take place mid-August 2008.

* A/63/150.

08-44105 (E) 200808

With the early retirement of the Director of the Centre, Regional Disarmament Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs assumed the responsibility for the Centre's daily operation and undertook vigorous resource mobilization efforts based on a new approach to the Centre's activities.

Acting upon requests and on the basis of positive feedback from Member States, the Centre also continued to promote disarmament and security dialogue and cooperation in the Asia and the Pacific region through the organization of conferences, including the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, held in Sapporo, Japan; and the Joint Conference on Disarmament organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Republic of Korea, in Seoul.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/39 D, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations made to that end. Therefore, the provision of voluntary financial contributions, in particular for core funding, is of crucial importance for the operation and activities of the Centre. Sporadic and insufficient core funding impacts directly on the sustainability and quality of activities and services provided by the Centre.

In this connection, the Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Government of Nepal, and to those States which have already contributed financially and in kind to the Centre, and would like to reiterate that it is of critical importance that Member States, especially those from the region, take full ownership of the Centre and provide support to its operation.

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/39 D, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific is mandated to provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources. The Centre shall coordinate the implementation of regional activities of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in Asia and the Pacific.

2. In accordance with resolution 42/39 D, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations might make to that end.

3. In paragraphs 5 to 8 of resolution 62/52, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Centre with the necessary support, within existing resources, in carrying out its programme of activities; welcomed the signing of the host country agreement and the memorandum of understanding by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the Permanent Representative of Nepal on 20 July 2007 for the relocation of the Regional Centre to Kathmandu; requested the Secretary-General to expedite the necessary preparations with a view to ensuring physical operation of the Centre from Kathmandu within six months to enable the Centre to function effectively; and requested him to report to the Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the resolution.

4. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and covers the activities of the Centre during the period from July 2007 to June 2008. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre for the biennium 2006-2007 is contained in the annex.

II. Relocation of the Centre

5. On 20 July 2007, the United Nations and the Government of Nepal signed the host country agreement and a memorandum of understanding on the relocation of the Centre to Kathmandu, which marked a breakthrough in the prolonged efforts to relocate the Centre to Nepal. Physical remoteness and insufficient voluntary contributions hampered the Centre's capability to carry out its mandate in an effective manner.

6. Therefore, the physical operation of the Centre from within the region would allow it to serve more effectively the needs of its constituency of 43 countries, in a vast and diverse region faced with an impressive array of security and disarmament-related issues. With the early retirement of the Director of the Centre in March 2008, the Regional Disarmament Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs assumed responsibilities of the Centre's daily operation and engaged in intensive preparations for its relocation in order to ensure the continuity and smooth transition of the Centre's operation from New York to Kathmandu. New extrabudgetary project proposals to be carried out in the region were designed and vigorous resources mobilization efforts were undertaken, aimed at strengthening the Centre's capacity to enable it to carry out its mandate fully and effectively in the region.

A. New project proposals

7. During the reporting period, three new project proposals were developed for the Centre: "Capacity-building of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific"; "Enhancing international and regional cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons in Asia and the Pacific"; and "Promoting increased participation in, and improved reporting to the United Nations transparency instruments in armaments in Asia and the Pacific". More substantive project proposals are being formulated for the Centre. These projects are aimed at enhancing the Centre's capacity to enable it to carry out effectively the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, and to expand the scope of its activities to become more responsive to the actual needs of the countries in the region.

B. Informal consultation on the relocation of the Centre to Nepal

8. In March 2008, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, organized an informal consultation in New York with interested Member States, in particular those from the region, on the relocation of the Centre, which was attended by 41 Member States, both from and outside of the region. The Office briefed Member States on the progress made on the preparations for the relocation of the Centre, presented the aforementioned three project proposals for the Centre, and indicated the need for associate experts that may be provided by Member States that are in a position to do so.

9. During the consultation, which was chaired by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, several Member States speakers responded to appeal by the Office for Disarmament Affairs for voluntary financial contributions for the Centre, by informing of their Government's willingness to provide financial support.

C. Progress made on the physical operation of the Centre from Nepal

10. During the reporting period, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, with the full support of and in close cooperation with the Government of Nepal and the United Nations Development Programme Country Office in Nepal, undertook intensive preparations in relation to the physical relocation of the Centre to Nepal. The inauguration of the Centre is scheduled to take place in Kathmandu, in mid-August 2008.

III. Activities of the Centre

11. Acting upon requests and on the basis of the positive feedback received from Member States, the Centre continues to encourage regional and subregional dialogue aimed at promoting disarmament and security in the region, through organizing United Nations conferences and meetings on various disarmament and security-related issues.

12. During the reporting period, the Centre organized, despite the limited financial resources made available to it through voluntary contributions of Member States and

other interested organizations, several conferences and meetings, as described below.

A. Nineteenth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues

13. From 27 to 29 August 2007, the Centre organized, in Sapporo, Japan, in cooperation with the Government of Japan and the city of Sapporo and Hokkaido Prefecture, the nineteenth annual United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, on the theme "A new vision and required leadership towards a world free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction". Approximately 50 participants from Governments, academic institutions, the media, international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in the Conference. Issues addressed at the Conference included the revitalization of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the balanced implementation of its three pillars: a new vision towards a world free from nuclear weapons; ways to prevent and respond to nuclear terrorism and the nuclear black market; and the implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Specific regional topics in relation to nuclear testing and nuclear proliferation were also discussed at the Conference.

14. The Conference provided a forum for frank and open discussions of critical issues in the field of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and regional security, highlighting, among a number of ideas, that the issue of nuclear weapons needs to be brought into the foreground of human awareness; that the positive outcome achieved at the first session of the Preparatory Committee provides States parties with a good foundation on which to build towards a successful 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; that the Conference on Disarmament should set an example for "bold nuclear disarmament initiatives" and immediately commence negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty; that the realization of complete nuclear disarmament is a process requiring systematic, gradual and concrete steps and a sound and stable international security environment; and that international and regional cooperation is essential to address the threat arising from nuclear terrorism and to prevent non-State actors from acquiring nuclear weapons and related material.

B. Sixth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues

15. In December 2007, the Centre organized, jointly with the Government of the Republic of Korea, the sixth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues on the theme "Towards the fulfilment of disarmament and non-proliferation in the twenty-first century: review of the current challenges", in Seoul.

16. Approximately 40 participants from Governments, academic and research institutions and international and regional organizations, mainly from the Asia-Pacific region, attended the Conference. The Conference dealt with four major issues, namely, the future of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; disarmament and the non-proliferation machinery; threats posed by missile proliferation; and regional efforts for disarmament and non-proliferation. The Conference provided an informal

forum to stimulate regional dialogue on pressing disarmament and security issues. The Conference assisted Member States in preparing for the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. As in previous conferences, it also provided the opportunity to discuss, in a multilateral environment, issues related to missiles, including missile proliferation.

C. Cooperation with regional and intergovernmental organizations and other relevant actors

17. The Centre maintained cooperation with regional and other intergovernmental organizations, including the Pacific Island Forum and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as with academic institutions and NGOs in the Asia and the Pacific region by inviting them to participate in meetings organized by the Centre on security and disarmament issues. The Centre continued to exchange information and interact with these organizations/institutions.

18. With respect to disarmament and non-proliferation education, in the course of 2007 the Centre held informal consultations with ASEAN member States, Central Asian States and South Pacific States to explore the possibility of jointly organizing regional workshops focusing on fostering capacity-building for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

19. During the reporting period, the Centre invited disarmament-related international organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, to make presentations at conferences and meetings that it organized, with a view to promoting the universality and full implementation of disarmament-related treaties in the region.

20. In the period under review, the Centre and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) maintained cooperation. The Centre was invited to make a presentation on nuclear non-proliferation issues at the sixth meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, held in Jakarta from 8 to 10 December 2007.

21. The Centre provided substantive advice and technical assistance to the prefecture and city of Nagasaki, Japan, in respect of the organization of the fifteenth United Nations and Disarmament Symposium, on the theme "A world free from nuclear weapons". The Symposium was held in Nagasaki on 31 August 2007, and offered local leaders, academic institutions and the general public in Japan the opportunity to familiarize themselves with current international nuclear disarmament efforts and the related challenges.

IV. Staffing and financing

22. During the reporting period, major changes took place with respect to the staffing situation of the Centre. Subsequent to the retirement of the Director of the Centre in March 2008, the Regional Disarmament Branch of the Office for

Disarmament Affairs assumed the responsibility for the Centre's daily operation, including all aspects of preparation for the relocation of the Centre to Nepal, such as the recruitment of a new director and undertaking intensive resources mobilization efforts to support the staffing and financial needs of the Centre. The recruitment of the new director is under way and should be finalized shortly. Responding to the appeal by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for financial support, a generous contribution from the Government of Switzerland allowed the Centre to employ its Special Coordinator for Peace and Disarmament Programmes in Asia and the Pacific as of 1 July 2008. In the same vein, the Government of the Netherlands has generously agreed to sponsor one Associate Expert for the Centre, who is expected to join in October. The host country, Nepal, has made timely financial contributions to the Centre, in accordance with the host country agreement and the memorandum of understanding signed between the United Nations and the Government of Nepal, which provided funds to support four local staff members (one administrative assistant, one driver and two security staff).

23. In order for the Centre to carry out its mandate effectively, it is essential for the Centre to rely on a dependable team of professional and support staff. This will determine its efficiency and ability to respond to requests from Member States in a meaningful and timely manner. The support of Member States to the Centre is therefore of vital importance to enable it to carry out outreach activities proactively and to develop and implement concrete projects tailored to suit the specificities of various subregions. In this connection, unearmarked financial contributions from Member States to strengthen the Centre's capacity are critical.

24. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions in the amount of $194,726 were received. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Thailand, for their contributions. The Secretary-General commends the Government of Nepal, as the host country, for the timely provision of its financial contributions, in accordance with the host country agreement and the memorandum of understanding, that supported the relocation and physical operation of the Centre from Kathmandu. This annual financial contribution by the host country is essential to ensure the sustainability of the operation of the Centre. The Secretary-General also wishes to thank the Governments of the Netherlands and Switzerland and for their generous contributions in kind to the Centre.

25. Past experience shows that voluntary contributions to sustain the operation of the Centre are not sufficient. The Centre urgently needs more core funding for its staffing and operations. Therefore Member States may wish to consider alternative means of ensuring stable core funding for the Centre to allow it to sustain its work and be in a position to respond to the increasingly diversified and numerous requests for technical assistance received from countries of the region.

V. Conclusions

26. The relocation of the Centre to Kathmandu, marks a turning point for the Centre's operation and activities. Within the limits of its capacity and pursuant to its mandate, the Centre continues to implement its mandate in promoting regional and subregional dialogue on global and regional disarmament and security issues, as well as to serve as an instrument for fostering a climate of confidence-building and

cooperation in disarmament-related issues in the region. Support, especially financial support, from Member States, will enable the Centre to respond effectively to the needs of the 43 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, in respect of security and disarmament-related issues.

27. In cementing its partnership with States in the Asia-Pacific region and other stakeholders, the Centre will be the primary United Nations regional entity advocating the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. This goal can only be achieved through the indispensable support by Member States. Besides political support, voluntary contributions from Member States and interested organizations, which represent the sole financial resources of the Centre, are essential to ensuring its operational sustainability and to effective fulfilment of its mandate. The Secretary-General reiterates his appeal to Member States, in particular those of the Asia-Pacific region, to continue to provide and increase financial support, in particular core funding, to the Centre in support of its programmes and activities, at this critical time of its physical relocation to the region.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for the biennium 2006-2007

	United States dollars
I. Fund balance, 31 December 2005	159 700
II. Income, 1 January 2006-31 December 2007	
Voluntary contributions[a]	236 296
Interest income	17 171
Other/miscellaneous income	—
Subtotal	**413 167**
III. Expenditures	
1 January 2006-31 December 2007	99 896
Programme support	13 535
Subtotal	**113 431**
IV. Fund balance, 31 December 2007	299 736

Note: This information is based on the statement of income and expenditure for the biennium 2006-2007 ending 31 December 2007. During the period from 1 January to 30 June 2008, additional contributions totalling $306,838 were received from Austria ($154,760), China ($20,000), Indonesia ($9,982), Nepal ($54,153), Pakistan ($4,943), Thailand ($3,000) and Turkey ($60,000).

[a] 2006: China ($10,000), Kazakhstan ($20,000), Pakistan ($5,870) and Thailand ($3,000). 2007: Kazakhstan ($10,000), Nepal ($159,426), Pakistan ($5,000), Republic of Korea ($20,000) and Thailand ($3,000).

United Nations A/63/179

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 51 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference

The latest developments related to the review process on financing for development and the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/187, the present document presents the latest developments related to the review process on financing for development and the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

The report outlines the main recent developments under each of the six thematic chapter headings of the Monterrey Consensus document: Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development; Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows; International trade as an engine for development; Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development; External debt; Addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development. The report also presents developments under the heading Staying engaged.

* A/63/150.

** Submission of the present document was delayed because of the need for further consultations with the major institutional stakeholders in the financing for development process. The report was prepared following consultations with staff of the major institutional stakeholders involved in the financing for development process. However, responsibility for its contents rests solely with the United Nations Secretariat.

08-44111 (E) 220808

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–2	3
II.	Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development	3–11	3
III.	Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows	12–22	5
IV.	International trade as an engine for development	23–33	8
V.	Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development	34–46	10
VI.	External debt	47–56	13
VII.	Addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development	57–65	15
VIII.	Staying engaged	66–72	17

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared at a time when the performance of the global economy is deteriorating. Growth is slowing down; the troubles and uncertainties in financial markets persist; and higher energy and food prices threaten higher inflation rates. Sound macroeconomic policies are needed to contain inflationary pressures, as well as well-targeted support for poor households most affected by rising food and fuel prices, and appropriate use of countercyclical fiscal policy.

2. Against this backdrop, sustaining the development effort, locking in the gains in poverty reduction of recent years and finding new ways to generate external and domestic resources necessary to augment financing for development now pose significant challenges for the international community.

II. Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development

3. The ongoing international food, fuel and financial crises highlight the continuing challenges the international community must confront in sustaining adequate levels of productive investment in the common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication, and sustainable development. Recent financial events have also highlighted the important role of sound economic management, including effective countercyclical domestic policies, in mobilizing savings and investment. This is an essential element of the Monterrey Consensus. For example, in response to the financial crisis, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been making the case for expanding the space for appropriate macroeconomic policies, particularly fiscal policy.

4. There are growing indications that the coming years will be associated with higher global interest rates and reduced international liquidity in comparison to the period since 2002 characterized by strong demand for developing country exports, high commodity prices and abundant credit. Macroeconomic policy responses in the forthcoming period are bound to differ among countries, among those that have built up significant reserves, those that have built up debt through large current deficits, those that have benefited greatly from high commodity prices and those that have not participated in the recent growth. At the spring meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions, held on 12 and 13 April 2008 in Washington, D.C., expanding domestic policy space, including fiscal policy space consistent with medium- and long-term fiscal sustainability, and obtaining international cooperation to do so, was considered critical to ensuring that countries are able to respond appropriately. At the same meeting, it was emphasized that all countries face the challenges of higher energy and food prices and a slowing global economy, in the short term.

5. The importance of transparency and good governance as key ingredients in the development effort was emphasized by many speakers during the review session on chapter I of the Monterrey Consensus, "Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development", held on 14 February 2008 in New York. The discussions drew lessons from past efforts to improve governance which indicated that such policies should be linked to a national development strategy, eschewing a generalized approach of copying other models and standards. The focus, particularly in addressing corruption and improving risk-sharing mechanisms between the public

and the private sectors, should be strengthened and would have to reflect individual country circumstances.

6. The potential financial losses from the ongoing international financial turmoil, estimated in the order of almost $1 trillion, underline the importance of good governance and transparency in financial markets. At the Special High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held on 14 April 2008, discussants noted the loss of confidence in financial markets after the sharp decline in prices in the housing market due to the lack of market transparency; gaps in the prudential framework; inadequate risk management and risk measurement in key financial institutions; concerns about the so-called non-organized markets and the role of credit agencies (A/63/80-E/2008/67, para. 39).

7. There has been renewed interest in addressing the negative impact of illicit capital flows on domestic resource mobilization. In a special event hosted by the Government of Norway at United Nations Headquarters on 14 February 2008, it was estimated that at least two thirds of the illegal international transfers of funds were motivated by tax evasion and the other third by efforts to conceal the proceeds of illegal activities, such as proceeds from the drug trade or terrorism financing. At the Technical Group meeting of the Initiative against Hunger and Poverty, held in Madrid on 23 May 2008, the importance of an agreement to consider tax evasion as a corrupt practice among countries signatory to the United Nations Convention against Corruption was also highlighted. A working group led by Norway on the development impact of illicit capital flows identified the need to expand cooperation in tax evasion in the same way the international community had coalesced on efforts against other criminal activities.

8. In discussing the importance of enhanced international cooperation on tax matters, some have referred to the work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and to a proposal to upgrade it to a full intergovernmental body.

9. In the long run, a sustained increase in the revenue capability of the public sector and diversification of the tax base is critical for mobilizing resources for development and meeting the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It has been noted that there is scope in most developing countries to increase tax revenue through more effective tax collection, modernization of tax legislation and broadening the tax base. A meeting with the theme "Revenue's role in the quest for inclusive development: What works and what can work better? South-South sharing of successful tax practices", held on 22 and 23 May 2008 at New York University and attended by senior officials from several developing countries, emphasized the need to enhance the perceived accountability of national and local governments by linking tax collection with service delivery.

10. Increasing inclusive finance to ensure that the poor participate in and benefit from domestic resource mobilization was highlighted during the Special High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held on 14 April 2008 in New York. The Accra Accord adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its twelfth session highlighted the importance of efforts to promote full and productive employment

and decent work at the national level, including through use of the International Labour Organization (ILO) toolkit for mainstreaming employment and decent work.

11. Attention continues to be drawn to the persistence of gender inequalities in labour markets, credit markets and assets distribution. The Commission on the Status of Women, at its fifty-second session, held from 25 February to 7 March 2008 in New York, called for greater strengthening of the Monterrey Consensus regarding gender equality issues, giving more specificity in undertaking financing for gender equality. There is a widespread view that there needs to be a better understanding of the role of women in development, moving beyond their roles as caregivers and labourers. Macroeconomic policies should be more coherent with other policies to achieve gender equality; for example, policies should go beyond gender budgeting and take into account tax issues, business cycles, employment and the unpaid "care economy".

III. Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows

12. Over the last five years, buoyed by strong economic growth and improved macroeconomic fundamentals, as well as improvements in the investment climate in many developing countries, global flows of private investment have grown significantly. During the review session on chapter II of the Monterrey Consensus, "Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows", held on 15 February 2008, it was noted that while there had been a rising overall trend since 1970, private flows to developing countries had been characterized by boom-bust cycles, with busts following years of growth in 1984, 1997 and 2002. UNCTAD data show that foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows remain the single largest component of private resource flows to developing countries and amounted to almost $500 billion in 2007. A significant part of these flows involve "South-South" investment among developing countries. The sizeable increase in net flows of FDI to developing countries as well as to transition economies in 2007 does not appear to have been noticeably affected by the ongoing financial and credit crisis so far. However, continuing weakness in global financial markets could have a negative impact on foreign investment flows.

13. The increase in FDI flows in 2007 was also fuelled by a sharp increase in cross-border mergers and acquisitions, which have started to decline with the recent turmoil in developed countries' financial markets. At the same time, emerging market countries are enhancing their share of global merger and acquisition activities, with firms, particularly from East and South Asia, investing actively in other developing countries, especially in extractive industries, telecommunications and financial services. Cross-border merger and acquisition purchases by companies in emerging economies, including by sovereign wealth funds, of companies in developed markets are also on the rise.

14. In a scenario of ever-increasing competition for investment and for global opportunities, the development of a healthy competitive business climate, suitable infrastructure and strong human resource development is essential both to attract investments in higher-value-added activities and to support the performance of local companies in the global market. This has also been highlighted by, among others,

the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in its report, *Foreign Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean 2007*.

15. Making progress in infrastructure and human resource investment is necessary to improve the business climate as well as to meet various social objectives. In their *Global Monitoring Report 2006*, the Bretton Woods institutions noted that, while most Governments focused on the short-term effects of expenditure reduction when setting fiscal targets, such a perspective neglected the fact that investment in infrastructure could lead to higher tax revenues in the longer term by increasing future output. Foreign direct investment contributes to higher productivity and economic growth when the host country has a sufficient capability, both physical and human, to absorb advanced technologies. It has therefore been recommended that Governments improve their business environments by increasing public investment in infrastructure and human resource development. It is also important to consider innovative ways to better leverage the involvement of transnational corporations in the development and management of infrastructure in developing countries.

16. The upward spiral in commodity prices and the reform of policy frameworks for FDI, in particular with respect to natural resource exploitation, have contributed to the recent surge of inflows to Africa, accounting in some host countries for more than three quarters of Africa's inward FDI. Developing country Governments should ensure that, through appropriate policies and regulations, foreign investment in extractive industries is consistent with broader long-term development objectives. The UNCTAD *World Investment Report 2007* emphasized that FDI in natural resource exploitation did not automatically translate into durable development gains; considerable public sector involvement was often indispensable in order to overcome economic, environmental and social obstacles to harnessing broader developmental impacts. The share of manufacturing in FDI flows into African manufacturing has continued to decline. Despite the privatization programmes in many of those countries, progress in meeting basic infrastructure needs, such as in water and electricity, has been limited.

17. For UNCTAD one of the important challenges in Africa is increased public sector involvement to channel increased revenues from commodity exports into productivity improvements and for industrialization in general. The World Bank advocates a renewed focus on investment in agriculture to increase yields and generate marketable surpluses that can be used to purchase higher-quality inputs for production as well as consumer goods. It has also been emphasized that public-private partnerships, at all levels, can facilitate promoting innovation and technological development, provided that fiscal risks related to such partnerships are well managed. Multilateral and bilateral aid organizations can help in this regard by providing resources and technical assistance to better enable countries to facilitate investment in infrastructure, absorb new technology and support appropriate production sector development strategies.

18. Through risk mitigation and capacity-building, multilateral development banks and bilateral donors can help broaden FDI flows to a wider range of countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Relevant multilateral, regional and national institutions can review functions and instruments that allow them to better mitigate the risks facing foreign investors in developing country infrastructure projects. The review

session on chapter II of the Monterrey Consensus acknowledged the importance of mechanisms to mitigate regulatory risk, to increase the role of multilateral and regional development banks in risk mitigation by increasing leverage for their guarantees, and to strengthen local currency lending.

19. As indicated above, South-South investment flows are becoming increasingly significant. To a large extent, the expansion of South-South investment flows reflects the increasing integration of developing countries into the world economy. Total South-South flows increased from $2 billion in 1985 to $60 billion in 2004, constituting 25 per cent of all FDI inflows to developing countries. South-South flows are particularly important in inward FDI to many least developed countries. In the General Assembly review session on this subject, it was acknowledged that South-South flows should be facilitated, especially as investors from the South possessed certain advantages when operating in other developing countries. The possibilities for supporting these flows should also be explored in the context of South-South-North triangular cooperation and collaboration among developing country institutions.

20. Recently, some developing countries have also become increasingly important investors in developed economies. Given the recent turmoil in developed country credit markets, public investments from emerging economies have played an important stabilizing role in ensuring that contagion has not spread to government bond markets in developed countries. Moreover, due to the unprecedented build-up of international official reserves, emerging market Governments have increasingly taken long-term equity positions in developed countries' financial markets through sovereign wealth funds. While policymakers in some developed countries have raised questions about the influx of investment by companies controlled by foreign Governments, linking it to national security concerns, substantial investments by these funds have proven to be crucial stabilizers for distressed financial institutions in developed countries. With regard to their potential impact on developing countries, the World Bank stresses the increasing importance of sovereign wealth funds and has recently floated the idea for such funds to invest at least 1 per cent of their portfolio in Africa.

21. Recently published data covering issuance in internationally syndicated loans, bond and equity markets by issuers domiciled in emerging market economies suggest that conditions have shifted significantly since the onset of financial turbulence in August 2007. Comparing the period from September 2007 through February 2008 with the same period a year earlier, equity issuance went down about 30 per cent, while syndicated bank lending fell by 24 per cent and bond issuance dropped by 53 per cent. A moderation in net private capital flows may follow the global economic slowdown in 2008.

22. There is consensus among countries in the Leading Group of Solidarity Levies to Fund Development that while remittances per se do not represent additional financing, the development impact of overseas workers' remittances through institutional, legal and economic measures can be expanded through international cooperation. The positive impact on the livelihoods of countless families in many developing countries is now widely recognized and should continue to be facilitated through appropriate measures in all countries.

IV. International trade as an engine for development

23. The role that trade can play in fostering economic development is well established. Trade can generate gains for developing countries, in most cases more than any other area of international economic cooperation. The ongoing World Trade Organization (WTO) trade negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda seek to establish a fairer and more equitable trading system for all WTO members by addressing inequities in current multilateral trading rules.

24. The collapse of the WTO Ministerial talks in Geneva in July 2008 signalled a significant hiatus in the Doha negotiations. While all parties have indicated their interest in pursuing the Doha Round, further progress is unlikely unless a more effective consensus of what constitutes a development-oriented result emerges. WTO reports that trade growth slid to 5.5 per cent in 2007 from 8.5 per cent in 2006; and it projects 4.5 per cent growth in 2008. Likely protectionist surges in response to the current economic slowdown around the world highlight the importance of actions to ensure that the global trading system will remain open to support the development efforts of all countries, particularly the world's poorer countries.

25. The ongoing crisis in food prices generated intense policy discussions at the 2008 spring meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions and at the twelfth session of UNCTAD. Many of the same issues were discussed in the General Assembly's review session on trade, held on 19 and 20 May 2008 in New York, and debated at the United Nations High-level Conference on World Food Security, held from 3 to 5 June 2008 in Rome.

26. Some consider the global food crisis as having its roots in decades of trade-distorting policies, among other things, that have encouraged inefficient agricultural production in developed countries and discouraged efficient production in developing countries. It has awakened the international community to the indispensability of a global trading system that sustains widely dispersed and sustainable agricultural investment throughout the developing world. Increased domestic investment in small farm production and an elevated level of public investment in infrastructure have been identified as the crucial response to doubling food prices at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held from 28 to 30 May 2008 in Yokohama, Japan, and the High-level Conference on World Food Security, held from 3 to 5 June 2008 in Rome. With about 850 million people already suffering from hunger and about 100 million more people becoming hungry because of higher prices, investments in the order of $15-$20 billion a year are required to ensure that global food supply can rise by 50 per cent by the year 2030 to meet projected demand.

27. The ongoing food crisis has been seen as the consequence of transitory as well as more deep-rooted problems. Agricultural export subsidies and trade-distorting supports to domestic food producers, as well as high tariffs on many agricultural products in many developed and developing countries, have discouraged production and exports in many developing countries with agricultural potential. In addition, as noted in previous reports, many developing countries have been requested or advised to eliminate subsidies, withdraw government support and reduce tariffs in this sector, undermining food security. The impact of biofuel production on food

prices and the longer-term impact on investment in agriculture in developing countries of trade-distorting subsidies have emerged as urgent multilateral issues.

28. There is growing agreement that a key part of a long-term solution to meeting the increased global demand for food will involve trade (as a vehicle for better connecting supply to demand and ensuring that trade rules do not undermine food security) and financing policies that will encourage a sustainable revival of smallholder agriculture. This will require not only nurturing and promoting household investments in rural areas, but also securing adequate technological and productivity growth in other sectors of the economy. Since women participate heavily in this type of agriculture, there is also an important gender dimension to the development of smallholder farming. The outcome of the Doha trade negotiations, in particular in agriculture, will have a profound impact on the access to food of people living in poverty throughout the world. The World Bank has estimated that as much as seven years of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals hunger targets could be wiped out by the current level of food prices.

29. In this context, it is also important to note that, after a period of trade surpluses for most developing countries, higher food and energy prices are exerting new pressures for imports to outstrip export earnings in many fuel and food-importing countries and could lead them to new external borrowings. High prices also threaten growth in the industrial economies on whose markets developing countries depend heavily.

30. Questions of multilateral oversight over commodity prices and their impact on development were discussed extensively at the twelfth session of UNCTAD. In the Accra Accord, member countries identified the need to address the impact of commodity dependence, including the volatility of prices, the pro-poor and transparent allocation of revenues as well as the diversification of production structures in economies dependent on a few commodities. African countries, in particular, requested upgrading UNCTAD work in commodities by transforming the existing Commodities Branch into an autonomous unit reporting directly to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

31. The Accra Accord recognized the new geography of the global economy, referring to the quantitative increase in trade and finance linkages among developing countries, as having the potential to broaden the spectrum of multilateral cooperation and to promote the integration of developing countries in the long term. South-South economic cooperation complements rather than substitutes North-South cooperation, and can contribute to balanced global growth and development. The UNCTAD *Trade and Development Report 2007* highlights the importance of strengthening regional cooperation among developing countries, while also recognizing the need for caution with regard to North-South bilateral or regional preferential trade agreements which may limit national policy space. Many concurred that such agreements ought to go beyond gains in terms of market access in merchandise trade to include trade in agriculture and services, investment, labour mobility and intellectual property, as well as sensible rules of origin. Moreover, it was indicated that developing countries, including least developed countries, should be encouraged to make trade competitiveness a pillar of their national development strategies.

32. In the General Assembly review session on trade, it was acknowledged that more open trade is, by itself, not a guarantee of development and poverty reduction. Many participants stressed that developing countries needed time to develop their productive capabilities to take advantage of the opportunities from increased market access and to minimize the costs of adjustment entailed by trade reforms and losses in preferential access. In this regard, developing countries also need access to technology at an affordable price, infrastructure investment and human resource development, an enabling domestic environment for private investment and innovation, and appropriate social safety nets. Many participants noted that developing countries needed adequate policy space to manage their trade, financial and development policies in line with their national development priorities and strategies.

33. Donors at the High-level Pledging Conference for the Enhanced Integrated Framework, held at Stockholm on 26 September 2007, and at the WTO Global Aid for Trade Review, held in November 2007, reconfirmed pledges, initially made at the sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Hong Kong, China, in 2005, to increase Aid for Trade by 2010. These pledges today stand at over $4 billion. As the UNCTAD Accra Accord noted, "Aid for Trade cannot be a substitute for the development benefits resulting from a successful and balanced outcome of the Doha Round but will be a valuable complement to them." Within this context, the approval of the WTO 2008 Aid for Trade roadmap with a focus on measuring trade capacity, implementation and involving developing countries more actively in the process, is welcome.

V. Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development

34. Both the General Assembly review session from 14 to 16 April 2008 in New York and the first Economic and Social Council Development Cooperation Forum on 1 July 2008, also in New York, deliberated on the mixed progress in international development cooperation since 2002. While some donors are meeting (some, indeed, surpassing) their commitments in delivering aid, aggregate aid flows from Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) countries as a whole have fallen significantly short of overall targets. On the other hand, new sources of aid money have proliferated, notably from the assistance programmes of other developing countries and private foundations, although data from non-traditional donors (bilateral and private) are imprecise. It is estimated that new sources now contribute roughly one fourth of global aid flows.

35. The OECD/DAC *Development Cooperation Report 2008*, released on 14 February 2008 in Paris, noted that the total 2007 ODA of $103.7 billion represented 0.28 per cent of the OECD members' aggregate gross national product (GNP), down from 0.31 per cent in 2006 and clearly off trend to meet the 0.70 per cent target. For many OECD donors, the growth of ODA will have to increase at double-digit annual rates if they are to achieve the 2010 aid target. Debt relief and humanitarian assistance have constituted as much as 30 per cent of ODA in recent years, underlining the political stresses attending efforts to increase ODA in many developed countries.

36. The importance of providing public resources programmable for developmental purposes was also highlighted in the General Assembly review session. Since ODA provides the resources that would otherwise not be forthcoming from the private sector, the fall-off in resources for development constitutes both a political challenge and a developmental threat. Development-oriented assistance normally requires many years of predictable funding, preferably through budget support based on strategies identified by national policymakers. The discussions in the review session and the Development Cooperation Forum noted that the Monterrey Consensus brought together donors and recipients to form a global development cooperation partnership for the first time.

37. Notable progress has been made by signatories to the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the principles of ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability, which is another significant milestone in implementing principles enunciated in the Monterrey Consensus. The Second Annual Plenary of the OECD Global Forum on Development, held in Paris on 20 May 2008, on the theme of "Strengthening country ownership", identified many hurdles to enhancing country ownership and proposed ways to overcome them. Achievement of this principle requires giving countries the flexibility to design and implement their chosen development path and streamlining agreed policy reform programmes to support more predictable disbursement and to improve coherence and complementarity among donors.

38. The present system has a variety of aid instruments, agreements and associated policy reform conditions, with a large number of donors, with some of the funding coming through the budget or projects. However, as has also been highlighted on previous occasions, the resulting number of donor missions in each recipient country can be burdensome, leaving little time, space and human resources for appropriate analysis, constructive country dialogue among domestic constituencies and informed policymaking.

39. As indicated earlier, the first Economic and Social Council Development Cooperation Forum highlighted the emergence of new donors, a development that also presages realignment away from the traditional donor community frameworks. Thus there seems to be an unambiguous trend to reform the aid architecture, as underscored by several of the keynote speakers and panellists at the session. There also seems to be a widespread opinion that this new Economic and Social Council initiative has the potential to serve as an effective international forum to address development cooperation issues in a more inclusive forum and that member States intend to use it accordingly.

40. Building on the laudable efforts to recast the aid machinery will also require addressing what has been called an important democratic deficit. The developing countries that are signatories to, or are affected by, the principles of the Paris Declaration are not all members of OECD or even the DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. Ownership is closely linked to representation. There is an imbalance in development cooperation if recipients are not genuine partners in influencing cooperation guidelines, including in international financial institutions. In the General Assembly review session on aid, there was a discussion on the establishment of a peer review process to evaluate aid programmes in order to help address that imbalance. A peer review mechanism can also play an important role in

setting guidelines on the appropriate use of conditionality to ensure aid effectiveness.

41. There was also renewed discussion on whether indicators currently in use to monitor aid delivery were adequate as indicators of genuine aid effectiveness, which must assess the real development impact of programmes. The Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Accra from 2 to 4 September 2008, is expected to generate further ideas and initiate multilateral processes that not only have a value in themselves, but should also be an input to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and to the subsequent processes, including in the Development Cooperation Forum.

42. The April 2008 Economic and Social Council special high-level meeting acknowledged the gathering momentum in the number of proposals and in the number of countries supporting innovative sources of finance (see A/63/80-E/2008/67). The International Health Partnership meeting of the Leading Group on Solidarity Levies to Fund Development, held in Madrid in May 2008, provided the occasion to review ongoing work in a growing list of potential innovative sources of financing, among them: the International Finance Facility for Immunization, advance market commitments, the airline ticket solidarity levy, a currency transaction development levy, a levy on carbon emission trading, a development levy on sales of information technology products, combating tax evasion, and special drawing rights for developmental purposes (the last of which would require amendment of the IMF articles of incorporation).

43. There was a sense among the leading countries that participated in the Plenary Meeting of the Leading Group on Solidarity Levies to Fund Development, held on 22 and 23 April 2008 in Dakar, that progress has been made in conceptualizing the key principles animating the effort in the following areas: providing predictable, long-term funding, overcoming market failures (as in the case of frontloading of research funds for tropical diseases), promoting a strengthened partnership between developed and developing countries and private citizens, civil society and the private sector in the aspect of revenue raising, and reducing extreme concentrations of aid flows to just a few countries. The Leading Group has a secretariat in Paris, and a rotating presidency currently being held by Guinea, following the presidencies of France, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Senegal. Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy was appointed the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Innovative Financing for Development. A world conference of non-governmental donors, with a particular focus on innovative financing for development provided by citizens, local and regional authorities, foundations, non-governmental organizations, faith groups and the private sector, is being planned by those groups for 2009.

44. Participants in the April 2008 Economic and Social Council special high-level meeting underlined the importance of appropriate international assistance for least developed countries as well as cooperation with middle-income countries. Aid for trade was particularly important for least developed countries, in order for them to take advantage of market access by improving their supply capabilities. The need to make aid more effective by addressing the specific needs of post-conflict countries and fragile States was also highlighted. Ideally, the start of assistance in a peacebuilding context could provide a smooth transition from humanitarian assistance, followed by rehabilitation and nation-building and then support for

enhancing governance and improvement of social and economic infrastructure, and long-term development programmes.

45. Climate change, though affecting all countries, is bound to have a disproportionate impact on the world's poorest. For the 2.6 billion people in the world who were living on less than $2 a day, representing some 40 per cent of the world's population, climate change presented a significant threat and inaction could endanger significantly the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals (see A/63/80-E/2008/67, para. 48). In the burgeoning discussion on the international community's financing responses to climate change, it has been emphasized, inter alia, that this challenge should not lead to the sidelining of other basic development needs. Estimates of the amount of financing required to deal with the global climate risk range from 0.3 to 1.0 per cent of global income. Discussion on this subject figured prominently at the opening of the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council, held in New York on 30 June 2008.

46. Many have pointed out that equity considerations, both from the point of view of current disparities in income and the historical responsibility for the Earth's accumulation of greenhouse gases, suggest that developed countries should bear a significant proportion of the costs. The climate change financing discussion must therefore address the central question of appropriate financial transfers from the industrialized countries (the so-called Annex 1 countries) to non-Annex 1 countries. The series of meetings under way as mandated by the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Bali from 3 to 14 December 2007, is expected to bolster the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as the universal approach to financing.

VI. External debt

47. The notable progress achieved in many aspects concerning external debt, covered by chapter V of the Monterrey Consensus, provided the starting point for the General Assembly review session held on 10 and 11 March 2008 in New York. Since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus, overall debt indicators have improved markedly, aided by a confluence of factors, notably the most recent years of low international interest rates and rapid growth in developing countries underpinned by strong export growth. Most developing countries have debt management programmes in place and have built up reserves, thus reducing vulnerability. The prepayment of debt by many developing countries, as well as debt relief for many low-income countries and sizeable debt reductions in countries such as Iraq and Nigeria, contributes to a stable scenario and points towards the possibilities for establishing a positive developmental role for external debt.

48. Debt relief committed to the 23 post-completion-point heavily indebted poor countries is expected to reduce their external debt stock by more than 90 per cent in end-2007 net present value terms. Most of this reduction (76 per cent) would be delivered in the context of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative ($35 billion in end-2007 net present value terms) and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative ($22 billion in end-2007 net present value terms). The remainder is attributable to traditional debt relief and voluntary bilateral debt relief beyond the HIPC Initiative. Debt stocks in the 10 interim period countries are expected to decline by a similar factor under these debt relief initiatives.

49. Despite these positive developments, the General Assembly review session had also dwelled on the obstacles to ensuring debt sustainability and protecting the financing needed to make progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The risk of debt distress remains moderate or high for more than half of the post-completion-point heavily indebted poor countries. Many have pointed to the critical importance of strengthened debt management capacity and the possibility of the joint Bank-Fund Debt Sustainability Framework as a coordination point for creditors.

50. Debt write-off programmes have been arduous and slow, often because of delays in meeting targets to improve public sector management. More importantly, many other developing countries, both least developed and middle income, have not benefited from a more widespread application of what could be called the "Monterrey debt principles" of 2002, which had actually been derived from the thinking that underpinned the launch of the HIPC Initiative. The March 2008 review session identified several political, legal, and governance obstacles explaining this situation.

51. New challenges have surfaced. The increasing weight of private debt in total external debt poses new problems for debt management, debt sustainability and debt restructuring. In recent years, domestic debt in many developing countries has increased vulnerability even as external debt levels have declined. Some note that the era of low interest rates and rapid export growth could be ending as the world economy enters a vulnerable period. Forecasts of lower growth prospects in both developing countries and the world economy as a whole portend a possible reversal in debt indicators.

52. External debt servicing in many countries receiving debt relief under the HIPC Initiative has returned to pre-Initiative levels, but rising domestic debt levels are increasing the cost of servicing public debt and reducing the fiscal space for development expenditure. Some heavily indebted poor countries have been subject to aggressive litigation by commercial creditors and vulture funds. Sounder fiscal management accompanying debt write-off programmes, has facilitated the restoration of debt servicing capacity. There is a debate over whether these fiscal policies have limited the public spending on infrastructure and productive activities necessary for the emergence of new, competitive economic sectors. Many speakers in the review session emphasized the importance of preventing a relapse into unsustainable debt. Reviving investment over the medium term and facilitating structural change should thus be part of the definition and design of sound macroeconomic policy.

53. The emergence of new creditors, both official and commercial, that are not members of the existing creditor coordination mechanisms has generated its own stresses in the overall situation. In this context, it is encouraging that there has been a reaffirmation of the basic debt principles upon which progress in international cooperation can be based. These principles are: joint responsibility of creditors and debtors; development needs rather than financial needs as the main foundation for debt reduction and cancellation; responsible lending practices in extending new loans to countries emerging from debt crisis; transparent national and international financial institutions, particularly banks; additionality of debt relief to ODA; and application of the Paris Declaration principles to achieving debt sustainability.

54. The impact of the many possible and flexible mechanisms and instruments, including grants, concessional loans, debt swaps, collective action bond clauses, payment moratoriums and debt write-off itself, for international debt management are often stymied by significant flaws in international law and governance in dealing with debt contracts. Inconsistencies as to which laws apply in the enforcement of contracts and weaknesses in international governance arrangements have made ensuring equivalent treatment of creditors difficult. This has encouraged individual actions by public and private institutions that have proven costly to developing countries. Lenders are unable to properly assess the risks they are bearing on their international loans, and this has encouraged both periods of excessive lending and sudden stops in lending.

55. In the March 2008 General Assembly review session on debt, it was noted that commercial debt buy-backs complementary to heavily indebted poor countries debt relief operations (such as one done under the debt reduction facility for International Development Association countries) and executed by heavily indebted poor countries Governments have been applied effectively to extinguish eligible commercial debt and to prevent costly and unjust litigation against heavily indebted poor countries. National laws in the major financial centres provide the bases for these lawsuits. The potential profitability of "vulture litigation" also derives from the fact that none of the existing mechanisms provides a guarantee of equivalent treatment to non-participating creditors. There was also a discussion on the non-participation of new creditors in the Paris Club and the difficulty of their inclusion in a body whose procedures had been set previously. It was pointed out by some in the review session that these procedures can be seen as constituting a de facto "court of creditors" with power to make judgements on creditor claims and debt servicing, and thus, contravene commonly held principles that decisions be made by an impartial agent.

56. The Workshop on Debt, Finance and Emerging Issues in Financial Integration, held on 8 and 9 April 2008 in New York and the civil society consultation organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at United Nations Headquarters on the theme of "Avoiding the 2015 debt crisis", on 29 and 30 June 2008, considered related international debt management and governance issues, including inter alia, the absence of a sovereign debt restructuring mechanism and preferred creditor status of the Bretton Woods institutions. While improvements are continually being made to the approach, many have urged a review of the debt sustainability frameworks of the international financial institutions, so that these can take up development indicators, including in particular the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals as a central objective of these calculations.

VII. Addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development

57. The General Assembly review session on addressing systemic issues, held on 11 and 12 March 2008, discussed the challenges involved in supporting more effective functioning and coordination of the international financial architecture and the economic aspects of global governance. The international community's attention

has been focused largely on the challenge of crafting policy responses to financial system weaknesses posed by ongoing global financial turmoil. These responses are spawning additional challenges in adapting the governance structures of the international institutions and other global decision-making bodies.

58. While a process of financial rehabilitation can be seen to have begun, measures to address the underlying causes of the disruptions have also started. The final report of the Financial Stability Forum, presented on 11 April 2008 and endorsed by the Group of Seven participants and the International Monetary and Financial Committee, sets out policy recommendations in prudential oversight of capital, liquidity and risk management; transparency, disclosure and valuation policies; the role and uses of credit ratings; and the authorities' responsiveness to risks and their arrangements to deal with stress in the financial system.

59. In response to the financial crisis and as a key element in sustaining efficient investment processes during the recovery, the process of strengthening domestic regulatory frameworks over financial markets is accelerating. On 31 March 2008, the United States Secretary of the Treasury initiated this process for the United States of America; parallel efforts are being undertaken in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and other European economies. During the 2008 spring meeting of the Bretton Woods institutions, many participants highlighted the international impact of national financial regulatory policies and standards, which in turn affect the access of developing countries to external finance. It is therefore important for developing countries not only to incorporate regulatory lessons from the current crisis in the building of their own domestic financial systems but also to have a secure voice in the design of future financial regulatory frameworks.

60. On 5 June 2008, in New York State, credit ratings agencies signed an agreement with the New York State Attorney General setting new standards and guidelines governing how to evaluate investments backed by risky mortgage debt. On 8 July 2008, the Chairman of the United States Federal Reserve said that the Federal Reserve would issue new lending rules to regulate exotic mortgages and sub-prime loans. On 16 July 2008, the Chairman of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission proposed restricting the short selling of stocks of financial companies. These developments help put a spotlight on, in the first instance, how a process of re-regulation, heightened disclosure requirements and enhanced public sector oversight over financial markets has started in various locations and, in the second instance, the potential flaws of unilateral, uncoordinated regulatory reform.

61. In the review session on systemic issues, participants similarly highlighted the fundamentally changed economic context since the Monterrey Conference, as well as the heightened pressure to update international public oversight and governance structures in order for them to be consistent with the existing global economic structure. Developing economies have become a much larger proportion of the global economy. The size and complexity of international private markets in trade and finance have seriously challenged the monitoring and financial capabilities of international public institutions. As indicated earlier, many of the more successful developing economies have built up their own reserves as individual self-insurance against vulnerabilities stemming from private markets.

62. In this context, members of the international community have stressed that the governance regime of the international financial institutions is in need of significant reforms to inter alia increase the voice of developing countries. The 28 April 2008

decision of the IMF Board of Governors on voting reform was welcomed; it was also noted that, for its part, the World Bank Executive Board has started a dialogue intended to improve the Bank's internal governance and broaden representation in its decision-making processes. Many representatives concurred on the importance for the Doha Conference to help set out clear and time-bound processes to implement decisions in this area.

63. It is also noteworthy that some progress has been achieved recently in ongoing efforts to strengthen IMF capability in surveillance, in the analysis of macrofinancial linkages, in integrating multilateral perspectives in bilateral surveillance, and in sharpening the work on financial markets. The question of international standards and codes being determined outside the multilateral system was also discussed in the systemic issues review session, as was the need for effective representation of developing countries in setting these international norms.

64. In recent months, there have been calls by leaders of some countries for in-depth consideration of reforms to global governance structures and institutions, including those related to the international financial and monetary architecture. For example, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on Reform of International Institutions, held in London on 9 and 10 June 2008, leaders of that organization expressed their intention to, inter alia, pursue the redefining of the purposes and governance of the international financial institutions, including working towards a Commonwealth consensus and wider international support for an international conference to achieve those goals. They agreed to work closely with the institutions concerned, including at an extraordinary meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government to be held on 24 September 2008.

65. There have also been renewed calls to strengthen the intergovernmental follow-up mechanisms to the Monterrey and Doha Conferences and to maintain the partnership of the United Nations with the other major institutional stakeholders in this task. In this regard, it was also noted that any mechanism must be effective, inclusive and transparent in view of the need to sustain the "Monterrey spirit" in a dynamic follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus and the agreements to be reached at the Doha Conference. It has also been pointed out that the follow-up of the International Conference on Financing for Development should ensure a continuing multi-stakeholder and multisector approach and build on the experiences and lessons in recent years, including strengthening of the interface with the Bretton Woods institutions, with a view to promoting a results-oriented framework for consultations and substantive dialogue. Such a framework would secure a larger opportunity for representatives of Bretton Woods institutions to voice their views.

VIII. Staying engaged

66. The General Assembly held its third High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development from 23 to 25 October 2007 in New York. The overall theme of the meeting was "The Monterrey Consensus: status of implementation and tasks ahead". Twenty ministers, 15 vice-ministers and other high-level officials from more than 100 Governments, as well as senior managers of major institutional stakeholders (the World Bank, IMF, WTO, UNCTAD and UNDP) spoke to the plenary. The outcome of the meeting is contained in the summary by the President of the General Assembly (A/62/550).

67. The Special High-Level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was held on 14 April 2008 in New York. The overall theme of the meeting was "Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, including new challenges and emerging issues". The substantive discussions focused on the following five sub-themes: (a) new initiatives on financing for development; (b) supporting development efforts and enhancing the role of middle-income countries, including in the area of trade; (c) supporting development efforts of the least developed countries, including through trade capacity-building; (d) building and sustaining solid financial markets: challenges for international cooperation; and (e) financing of climate change mitigation and adaptation. The summary by the President of the Council (A/63/80-E/2008/67) covers the full range of views expressed at the meeting.

68. The Financing for Development Office (FfDO) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs continued to organize, in collaboration with experts from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society, workshops, multi-stakeholder consultations, panel discussions and other activities aimed at better enabling member countries to implement their commitments as agreed in the Monterrey Consensus. Two regional consultations, on "National and regional development banks in Asia and the Pacific: potential and sustainability" and on "Financing access to basic utilities for all" were organized from 17 to 19 December 2007 in Bangkok, in cooperation with the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific. Information on the meetings is available on the Financing for Development website at www.un.org/esa/ffd.

69. The Financing for Development Office, in cooperation with the United Nations Capital Development Fund, continued to provide support to the United Nations Advisers Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors, comprising experts from Governments, the banking sector, civil society, academia and development cooperation institutions. Regional forums on policy and regulation in Africa and Latin America were held in the first half of 2008 and those for Eastern Europe and Asia are scheduled for the second half of the year, to promote best practices and share lessons learned. At the conclusion of its two-year term in June 2008, the Advisers Group issued a final statement entitled "Microcredit, microfinance, inclusive finance: building on success", which contains key messages addressed to all relevant stakeholders, with a view to expanding access to financial services for all.

70. The preparatory process for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus is well under way. As has been referred to throughout this report, from February to May 2008, the General Assembly held informal review sessions on each of the six thematic areas of the Monterrey Consensus. The meetings were followed by informal consultations on the contents of the outcome document of the Doha Review Conference, held in June and interactive hearings with representatives of civil society and the business sector, also held in June. Informal summaries of the review sessions are available on the Financing for Development website (www.un.org/esa/ffd). The monthly Financing for Development Office/United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service newsletter "The Road to Doha" provides regular updates on the preparatory process (http://www.un.-ngls.org).

71. United Nations regional commissions held consultations in preparation of the Doha Review Conference. The following consultations took place: the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, from 31 March to 2 April 2008 in Addis Ababa; the Economic Commission for Europe meeting on 13 May 2008 in Geneva; the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, from 26 to 29 May 2008 in Sana'a; the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean from 9 to 13 June 2008 in Santo Domingo; and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on 18 and 19 June 2008 at its headquarters in Bangkok. The outcomes of these consultations are critical inputs in the preparatory process.

72. The Economic and Social Council held its inaugural Development Cooperation Forum on 30 June and 1 July 2008 in New York, under the overall theme "Towards more coherent and effective development cooperation". The key points of the discussions are contained in the official summary by the President of the Council (see www.un.org/newfunct/Summary_of_the_President.pdf).

United Nations A/63/180

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 49 of the provisional agenda*
Information and communication technologies for development

Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system

Report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/130, including the recommendations of the tenth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/130.

Summary

The present report has been prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and is being submitted to the General Assembly at the sixty-third session pursuant to Assembly resolution 50/130, as well as resolution 51/172 which, inter alia stressed the need to support two-way communication systems that enabled dialogue and that allowed communities to speak out, express their aspirations and concerns and participate in the decisions that related to their development.

The text presents the engagement of United Nations organizations in the implementation of communication for development programmes and inter-agency collaborative mechanisms for effective and integrated follow-up of related actions.

* A/63/150.

08-44129 (E) 220808

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1–2	3
II.	Tenth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development	3–17	3
III.	Communication for development in the current United Nations context	18–33	6
IV.	Collaborative action among United Nations agencies, programmes and funds	34–56	8
V.	Actions undertaken by United Nations agencies, programmes and funds	57–91	12
VI.	Collaborative action of United Nations organizations with civil society	92–94	21
VII.	Conclusions and recommendations	95–99	22

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 50/130 the General Assembly recognized the important role of communication for development programmes in the United Nations system in enhancing the transparency of system-wide coordination within the United Nations system and also recognized the need further to facilitate inter-agency cooperation and to maximize the impact of the development programmes. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in accordance with that agency's mandate in the field of communication and with resolution 4.1, adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-eighth session, to report to the Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the resolution and on a biennial basis thereafter.

2. On the basis of this mandate, this report presents the engagement of United Nations organizations in the implementation of communication for development programmes as well as inter-agency collaborative mechanisms for effective and integrated follow-up of related actions.

II. Tenth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development

3. Representatives of the United Nations Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee (DAC), as well as academics, practitioners and other experts in the field of communication for development[1] contributed to the review of the existing communication for development coordination arrangement at the tenth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development. The Round Table was hosted by UNESCO from 12 to 14 February 2007 in Addis Ababa.

4. The tenth Round Table, attended by more than 40 participants, was convened on the theme "Towards a common system approach for harnessing communication for development to achieve the Millennium Development Goals". It focused on practical and achievable interventions around which United Nations system organizations could develop a common approach, strategy and action plan for the implementation of communication for development practice.

5. The objectives of the meeting were to (a) increase inter-agency collaboration at Headquarters and United Nations country team levels, (b) strengthen awareness among United Nations system organizations on ways to measure the impact and effectiveness of communication for development, and (c) introduce mechanisms to harmonize communication for development programming approaches within the United Nations system.

6. The Round Table reiterated that communication for development is critical for the success of the Millennium Development Goals, acknowledged the vital role of the independent and pluralistic media in the process and presented two background

[1] The list of participants is available at: www.unesco.org/webworld/media_development/10th_roundtable.

papers[2] to articulate that position and to emphasize that higher priority allocation for communication for development is essential for coherent and harmonized actions to take place at country level. The background papers, commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNESCO, provided an overview of issues and made suggestions for improved inter-agency coordination at Headquarters and country levels.

7. The participants recognized the United Nations reform initiative, "delivering as one" as an opportunity to: (a) identify capacity gaps; (b) integrate communication for development practice in development planning, particularly through the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF), poverty reduction strategy programmes; and (c) introduce the use of diagnostic tools, such as media development indicators and communication audits in One UN pilot countries.

8. The Round Table took stock of relevant initiatives and activities being implemented by the United Nations system in the following three broad domains:

(a) Communication as governance or participation: amplifying citizen's voice, enabling public debate and holding Governments to account using the media as an important constituency as well as a conduit for information;

(b) Sector-specific communication: responding to the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals using tailor-made communication approaches;

(c) Information and communications technologies (ICTs): the transformative capacity of ICTs facilitates information access and enables community participation; promotes the creation of enabling policy environments, innovative financing and multi-stakeholder partnerships, which are needed to reap the benefits.

9. Participants observed that the key methodology of communication for development needs assessments is missing from the current United Nations approach, particularly at country level.

10. In the United Nations system, communication in general is often viewed mainly in relation to channelling information downstream to promote specific mandates, methods and policy-related agendas, as well as to build public image and visibility and support for fund-raising.

11. Public information strategies are consolidated through the United Nations Department of Public Information, which has demonstrated growing accomplishment in responding to global issues in support of the Millennium Development Goals and ensuring that the work of the United Nations is known to specific audiences as well as the general public. While this is extremely important for the profile and development objectives of the Organization, it does not necessarily equal communication for development practice, which is participatory communication in support of development programmes focused on social change.

---

[2] UNESCO and UNDP, "Towards a common United Nations system approach: harnessing communication to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", background papers prepared for the tenth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 12-14 February 2007.

12. Systematic and operational linkages between the United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development and the United Nations Communications Group may improve awareness and capacity-building needs about communication for development practice in the United Nations system. It would also help harmonize United Nations programming priorities and communication activities.

13. Similar linkages with the United Nations Development Group may underscore the added value of communication for development in development planning, particularly within United Nations programming exercises, such as CCA/UNDAF. Integrating communication for development in upstream policy-setting will guarantee its consideration throughout United Nations priorities and responses.

14. A triangular relationship between the United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table, the United Nations Communications Group and the United Nations Development Group may lead to consideration for United Nations staff capacity enhancement, a coherent and system-wide communication for development policy and the systematic follow-up of Round Table recommendations at Headquarters and field levels.

15. The general recommendations of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and, in particular, those reached at the tenth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development are:

(a) To impress upon senior-level decision makers of United Nations specialized agencies, programmes and funds the importance of prioritizing communication for development principles and methodologies in all programmatic areas, and the need to allocate human, technical and financial resources for this effort;

(b) To advise the heads of respective agencies, programmes and funds to integrate communication for development principles and methodologies into programme and project planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation; to ensure the incorporation of communication for development principles and methodologies, including needs assessments, into CCA/UNDAF guidelines, or equivalent exercises, so as to improve development results;

(c) To call upon the United Nations Resident Coordinator system to ensure greater coherence and coordination of communication for development at the country level;

(d) To establish a formal inter-agency mechanism promoting and enhancing communication for development within the United Nations system.

16. The participants agreed that the eleventh United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development would be co-hosted by UNDP and the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

17. The full text of the Addis Recommendations is found at the following URL: http://www.unesco.org/webworld/en/10roundtable-recommendations.

III. Communication for development in the current United Nations context

18. Communication for development approaches and strategies in the United Nations system are as diverse and wide-ranging as development needs but are guided by General Assembly resolution 50/130 and by the definition provided in General Assembly resolution 51/172 which, inter alia, stressed the need to support two-way communication systems that enabled dialogue and that allowed communities to speak out, express their aspirations and concerns and participate in the decisions that related to their development.

19. In other words, "communication for development is a social process based on dialogue using a broad range of tools and methods. It is also about seeking change at different levels, including listening, building trust, sharing knowledge and skills, building policies, debating and learning for sustained and meaningful change. It is not public relations or corporate communication".[3]

20. United Nations organizations that recognize and practise communication for development utilize its consultative and participatory approach to facilitate programme linkages; increase knowledge and awareness; build community and government human resource capacities; change behaviour and practices; shift attitudes and social norms; enhance self-esteem and self-efficacy in and among communities. The interventions largely benefit grass-roots and marginalized communities but have also been applied to manage change in the face of natural disaster, including epidemics and climate change.

21. Pluralistic media play a pivotal role by facilitating communication for development practice and enlarging two-way information flow from basic interpersonal communication to public discourse, debate and democratic participation, thus enabling the amplification of multiple voices, particularly as cultural values become transformed to adapt to rapidly changing environments.

22. Media capacity has direct implications for the United Nations system, particularly in the context of "delivering as one", which is a prime opportunity for the introduction of national media development and the engagement of the media not simply as an information conveyor but as a partner in sustainable development.

23. Partnering with the mass media is essential and joint actions could contribute to the strengthening of investigative capacity and disciplinary knowledge among media professionals and institutions considering the impact that such limitations would inflict upon the public, particularly where information is inadequately researched and disseminated in societies challenged by complex development problems, for example, natural resources management, prevention of communicable disease, access to information and basic services.

24. UNESCO, UNDP and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) play a lead role in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society action lines, which aim to foster greater participation and inclusion of stakeholders in the use of ICTs for development by addressing the digital divide, fostering

[3] The World Congress on Communication for Development. The Rome Consensus: communication for development: a major pillar for development and change (Final version), January 2007.

enabling environments and building capacities to ensure the widest access to information and communication.

25. In line with the World Summit on the Information Society Geneva Declaration of Principles and Tunis Commitment, United Nations organizations have taken advantage of ICTs to model open-source platforms and communication channels for the enhancement of self-expression and access to information.

26. The platforms are for use by wide-ranging target groups, such as women (Dimitra project/the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), youth (the Voices of Youth/the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)), indigenous people (e-Bario ICT vision/UNDP), media professionals (audio-visual e-platform/UNESCO), rural communities (community e-centres/Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)). The participation of community multimedia centres (UNESCO) in such efforts is encouraged as their numbers continue to increase worldwide, with a total of 130 community multimedia centres introduced in 25 countries benefiting from the integration of radio and telecentre components that are promoting the creation of local content through community participation.

27. Using an open-source philosophy in which everything that is developed is free and can be customized for different user applications, UNICEF is promoting and piloting tools that include a mobile radio station (ROSCO) for use especially during emergencies; rural community Internet access and data collection by mobile phone (RapidSMS), and collaborative workspaces (UNIWIKI) for young people for sharing and creating content that can be accessed through multiple media platforms.[4]

28. However, ICTs can be beneficial only if equitable access to them is ensured through multiplatform and language solutions, appropriate applications and capacity-building. In addition, critical knowledge and analytical tools in media and information literacy can empower media and information users to objectively judge the value and credibility of the information supply.

29. While communication for development practice is used in field-level operations as an essential element of development programmes, for example, for agricultural development, there is concern that instead of using ICTs for technology-driven knowledge management, the transformative capacities of ICTs should be utilized to enhance the amplification of voice and dialogue.

30. The relevant communication for development knowledge and experience that exists within the United Nations system is managed by a small number of agencies and programmes which operate in independent rather than integrated approaches in relation to the mandate they have been entrusted. The terminology assigned to relevant communication approaches is therefore different, but the principle is always focused on leading a constructive dialogue and social change process in favour of improved livelihood conditions.

31. The biennial United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development seeks operational linkages with the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations Communications Group in order to explore the evolution of a mechanism, given the increasing interest of United Nations agencies

[4] http://www.mepemepe.com/wiki/Main_Page.

in participating in the round tables, as evidenced at a workshop during the seventh annual United Nations Communications Group meeting, where participants expressed their interest in learning more about communication for development through systematic information-sharing and training.

32. The integration of communication for development in national development planning and the use of diagnostic media development indicators for that purpose would ultimately contribute to the creation of enabling environments and enhanced capacity of media professionals to independently and verifiably question the issues that are holding back Member States from meeting the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals.

33. Promoting freedom of expression and universal access to information, strengthening legal and regulatory environments, developing media capacity, raising media professional awareness, and strengthening accessibility of information to vulnerable groups are United Nations-oriented actions that support the enlargement of communication for development practice.

IV. Collaborative action among United Nations agencies, programmes and funds

Creating enabling environments and giving voice

34. This report does not pretend to provide an analysis of the communication for development practice in the United Nations system; rather it suggests that the formation of communication for development linkages within and among different United Nations organizations can reflect positively on programme-related results. A brief attempt is made in the following paragraphs to provide examples that demonstrate inter-agency collaboration using overall themes as benchmarks.

35. Pilot projects to inform poverty reduction strategies and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework with regard to possible ways of bringing the voice of marginalized communities, through media, to the development arena are being conducted by UNDP parallel to the scale-up of community multimedia centres in Africa, supported by UNESCO and its partners.

36. FAO participated in the One UN pilot projects in Albania and Tanzania, where a communication for development component was introduced with the aim of formulating a strategic framework and advisory system for farmer-responsive agricultural research, market orientation, income diversification, environmental protection and climate change adaptation. In Tanzania, the communication for development component stresses the use of gender-sensitive information and communication systems and methodologies for rural communities, participatory rural communication appraisals and the use of rural radio, ICTs and short message service messaging (SMS).

37. Assessment tools have also been developed:

(a) To measure the ability of communities to receive, communicate and act when informed through communication for empowerment exercises (UNDP);

(b) To improve information flows between central Government and local authorities (United Nations Capital Development Fund);

(c) To study media capacities at a national level through the media development indicators, with a view to addressing deficiencies (UNESCO).

38. Sector-specific, ad hoc communication for development practice responds to, for example:

(a) Reconstruction of refugee camps in Lebanon (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA));

(b) Bridging the digital divide and advising rural communities on affordable and appropriate access to information and communications technologies (ESCAP);

(c) Negotiating and disbursing financial resources to 46 national programmes where communication is specified as a key pillar to development and drawing from the experience of the United Nations system in doing so (the World Bank).

Survival, development and protection of children and women

39. A renewed communication for development strategy in support of child survival and development aims to contribute to reducing child mortality by 40 per cent through practising behaviours such as early and exclusive breastfeeding, use of oral rehydration therapy, use of insecticide-treated nets by children and pregnant women, and hand washing at critical times such as before eating, after defecating, after cleaning an infant and before preparing food. The communication for development initiative in support of these key practices is led by UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) with non-governmental organization partners.

40. In Senegal, a community-centred and dialogue-based model has led to the public declaration of abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting in 3,000 out of 5,000 communities, marking a decrease by more than 70 per cent since 2006 compared to a drop of only 25 per cent in villages that did not use the dialogue-based model. The programme has been adapted in Burkina Faso, Djibouti, the Gambia, Guinea and Mali with UNICEF support.

Disease prevention: avian influenza

41. In order to control the spread of avian influenza, in 2006 and 2007 UNICEF, in close collaboration with FAO, WHO, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the United Nations System Influenza Coordinator and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), provided support to Governments and civil society partners in 50 countries for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating large-scale communication campaigns. Monitoring data suggests that families engaged in backyard poultry production adopted measures, such as hand washing and thorough cooking of poultry, to protect themselves from the H5N1 virus. However, complex behaviours, such as improved biosecurity and responsive reporting of dead birds was not practised as widely. A medium to long-term communication for development intervention is required to ensure appropriate community practice.

42. In this context, the World Bank advocates a multisectoral approach focusing its role in communication around informing high-level politicians about possible

scenarios and the financial and social costs associated with immediate problems, such as the avian influenza threat. The World Bank helped ministries to create a communications response team and provided financial resources to design, produce and disseminate a variety of media campaigns; to include a multisectoral public response in the national programmes; to facilitate a communication role for the private sector; to train the media in the professional reporting of pandemics; and to secure high visibility for the institutional response.

43. In mid-2007, as a response to demands for strategic policy guidance and technical assistance in animal health communication, FAO established a communication unit based at the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases in its headquarters to build a critical mass of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) communication specialists, conduct multidisciplinary research for strategy-building and provide technical assistance to strengthen communication capacities and competencies of member States to respond effectively to HPAI. The Communication Unit works closely with UNICEF and WHO. For example, smallholder farmers in rural Cambodia learned about local knowledge and perception of poultry disease in general and avian influenza in particular before involving communities in order to develop better communication strategies for bringing about behaviour change.

HIV and AIDS

44. A United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/FAO project in Cameroon is utilizing communication for development methodologies and tools for behaviour change and community mobilization for reproductive health. Its objectives, among others, are to build the communication capacity of health agents and to raise the awareness of decision makers and the population at large on issues related to reproductive health and HIV and AIDS.

45. Given persistent high rates of HIV and AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa, UNICEF worked with other United Nations agencies to strengthen communication capacity in 15 countries in the region to support and implement comprehensive prevention strategies for adolescents most at risk. Strategies included campaigns using the mass media, new technologies, community outreach and local networks as platforms for dialogue. The Sara Communication Initiative, a multimedia entertainment-education package focusing on healthy adolescent lifestyles, continued to be used across the region.

46. Sports for development was a vehicle for awareness and change in several countries (Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Swaziland) and children's parliaments and youth forums were supported in order to influence HIV and AIDS policies (Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania). Sport is also used as an innovative approach to mainstream sustainability principles and secure social change by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

47. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the capacities of communication professionals to produce and disseminate development messages on specific areas related to the Millennium Development Goals, including HIV and AIDS, poverty reduction, education for sustainable development and science communication were strengthened through training and support to specialized

networks, such as a UNESCO-supported global network of young television producers on HIV and AIDS.

Human rights

48. UNDP in Ukraine has worked with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and IOM to initiate a dialogue with State authorities to address the growth in racist and xenophobic attacks on foreigners, including asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants. Using a rights-based and security-sensitive approach, support was mobilized from embassies and multilateral diplomatic missions, leading to, among other actions, a public repudiation by the President of the trend through the media.

Polio eradication

49. Intensive communication efforts continued in 2006-2008 for polio eradication, especially in India, Nigeria and Pakistan. Each country adopted a unique strategy to reach underserved and hard-to-reach populations, taking into account local socio-economic contexts and cultural factors determining the uptake of oral polio vaccine. Data were collected across population groups to compare coverage rates and resistant households before and after the communication intervention, showing improved trust, increased knowledge and acceptance and proactive seeking of immunization for children. In Nigeria, immunization coverage rates increased in areas where community dialogues were introduced, while households refusing the vaccine decreased. In Pakistan, improved coverage of children was reported in areas with enhanced social mobilization activities to engage women, the primary caregivers, and other decision makers. In India, the number of children immunized in settlement areas with community mobilization committees was consistently higher than in areas where committees did not exist.

50. Communication efforts facilitated by community discussion, household visits, partnership with faith-based networks and the mass media have contributed to an increase in routine immunization coverage from 77 per cent in 2006 to 87 per cent in 2007 in post-conflict Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Protecting the earth and our environment

51. The UNEP Online Access to Research in the Environment has enrolled over 600 institutions from more than 50 developing countries and provides reduced cost access to the latest in scientific research on the environment in partnership with WHO and FAO, Yale University and leading publishers.

52. UNEP is the lead agency for World Environment Day, the United Nations system's principal environmental observance. The theme for 2008, "Kick the CO_2 habit: towards a low carbon economy" focused on solutions, and in particular global efforts to mitigate climate change. UNDP is also producing an interactive public service announcement to drive viewers to a multilingual website on climate change: www.12simplethings.org.

53. UNDP has used its role as trusted convener to bring together media stakeholders on the anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami to discuss the theme of communicating disasters. Following this gathering, a book presenting a kaleidoscope of perspectives as well as practical advice on how to communicate hazards and disasters was brought together, drawing on rich and varied experiences from the media, development and humanitarian sectors. The tools, technologies and methods vary, but there is consensus that to be effective, communication needs to be two-way, inclusive, participatory and sustained over time. It is not an add-on to other development interventions, but an integral component in its own right.

54. In Lebanon, the UNDP National Awareness Energy Savings Campaign promoted energy efficiency. One of the top advertising agencies developed pro bono the creative concept "Some turn-offs do save" and supervised the production of all media and advertising material. National broadcast and print media were mobilized for free airtime and media space, and ensured nationwide coverage. The campaign saw hundreds of spots broadcast on television and radio stations, billboards across the country, and print advertisement in magazines and newspapers. It was followed by an intensive information campaign detailing the potential out-of-pocket savings to each household and dollar-value savings to the national economy if simple steps were taken in people's daily routines. The campaign won the prestigious Picasso Citizen's Award for the most innovative and creative public service advertising in 2006.

55. UNESCO is promoting, among United Nations partners, the use of its model media resource and training kit, Media as partners in education for sustainable development, to initiate dialogue among stakeholders by focusing on key issues in sustainable development, namely climate change, depleting forests and fisheries, fresh water, biodiversity and pollution. The resource and training kit invites journalists and other media professionals to inquire into and investigate relevant changes that are required to accelerate gains for sustainable living. The kit can be translated and adapted to any local context, contains a DVD of films and audio clips and a CD-ROM of relevant information resources and has been discussed with members of the United Nations Inter-agency Committee on the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

56. UNDP supports the media and its environment in many innovative ways. In Sierra Leone, it partnered with the United Nations Integrated Office and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists to create the first-ever media code of conduct, and also supported the creation of the United Nations Media Club, which has enhanced working relations with the media. In Kenya, UNDP has designed a four-year communication for development project which includes mentoring of young journalists, launching of media excellence awards and the development of a curriculum on communication and development for media training institutions.

V. Actions undertaken by United Nations agencies, programmes and funds

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

57. FAO provides technical assistance to member countries in the identification and appraisal of communication needs and in the application of appropriate

participatory communication policies, strategies, media and messages to support agricultural and rural development. Communication for development support is given in a range of specialized subjects beyond research and extension, such as the right to food, avian influenza, natural resource management, HIV and AIDS, indigenous peoples' communication and rural livelihoods. Particularly at field level, this support is provided in collaboration with a number of United Nations agencies such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank. An independent external evaluation of FAO made specific reference to communication for development as a technical area which had continued to provide innovative concepts, methodologies and technical assistance for strengthening rural and agricultural communication networks.

58. In recent years, despite diminishing resources, FAO has pioneered a new strategy for communication for development capacity-building that focuses on strengthening the capacities of farmers and indigenous peoples' organizations and advocating for closer interaction between civil society and national development programmes. Regional approaches to capacity-building in communication for development have been promoted through a series of consultations, workshops and web-based platforms[5] which led to experience exchange on the application of communication for development in different contexts,[6] such as the application of communication for development to climate change adaptation, mainly through the Communication for Sustainable Development Initiative which focuses on natural resource management and rural livelihoods.

59. While FAO continues to provide communication for development technical assistance to its Member States, its field-level capacity faces limitations to integrate communication for development in the planning and implementation of programmes such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework/rural development or the FAO national medium-term priority frameworks. In this respect, the wealth of experience and lessons learned that have accumulated through the field programme need to be consolidated and conceptualized for integration into overall development assistance programmes.

International Telecommunication Union

60. The ITU contribution to communication for development is largely shaped through the harmonization of ICT policies and guidelines to strengthen human and institutional capacity through a range of training, education and knowledge-sharing measures, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific island States.

61. The continued development of e-applications and the monitoring of trends and new developments in the information society provide decision makers and stakeholders with a comprehensive view of current telecommunications infrastructure needs and statistics.

---

[5] Central America: http://www.comunicacionparaeldesarrollo.org/; Rural Radio: http://onda-rural.net/sitio/.

[6] The results of the consultations are described in FAO. *A compendium of regional perspectives in communication for development* (Rome, 2007).

62. ITU plays an active role in the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, a multi-stakeholder partnership that includes OECD, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the World Bank, the four United Nations regional Commissions (the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), ESCAP, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)) and Eurostat.

63. Some of the notable initiatives launched by ITU to bridge the digital divide include the Global Cybersecurity Agenda, Connect Africa Initiative, as well as portals such as ITU ICT Eye and ITU Global View.

United Nations Capital Development Fund

64. The United Nations Capital Development Fund relies on communication for development initiatives to advance its policy goals of strengthening local government capacity to improve delivery of infrastructure and services, to respond to the needs of local populations and to ensure transparency of decisions and budgets.

65. The Local Governance Support Programme in Timor-Leste, for example, is strengthening and improving information flows between the central Government and local authorities through a variety of communication for development interventions, including support to radio, Internet and print distribution, documentation of best practices and stakeholder engagement. The Programme is supporting initiatives that are helping local assembly members communicate more effectively about the responsibilities of government and to ensure that communities have full access to information about local budget execution. Training on basic communication principles and media relations is organized for members of the local assemblies to encourage greater links with the local and national media and more effective socialization of information on assembly work within communities. The Programme has also increased communications infrastructure at local village offices by installing public information boards for posting public documents.

66. In Ethiopia, where information- and experience-sharing between regions is one of the pillars of a new programme, the United Nations Capital Development Fund has supported the development of a local government manual in the Amharic language on planning and budgeting and has disseminated the manual throughout the country where experience-sharing through field visits is organized from region to region. The programme also seeks to formalize an approach to e-governance and local development by developing new regulations, reviewing existing policies (lessons learned) for their impact and replication on ICT, and including ICT into local government capacity-building.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

67. The UNCTAD Communications and Information Unit recently organized training sessions to upgrade the communications capacities of selected civil servants from national administrations of developing countries. The main objective was to provide government officials with techniques that will enable them to communicate to the public at large on trade and development issues. The trainees learned how to

write different information products, such as press releases or web pages, as well as how to organize a communications campaign using the UNCTAD implementation of a specific programme on issues related to World Trade Organization accession as an example.

68. The UNCTAD capacity-building programme, the Virtual Institute on Trade and Development, strengthens university capacities in developing and transition countries to teach and research trade and development issues by (a) facilitating knowledge access using ICTs including for posting research and receiving peer review feedback, (b) helping universities to design and deliver locally relevant academic programmes, and (c) strengthening capacity to generate own knowledge through workshops, round tables, research and a fellowship programme. A particular attention is paid to the relevance of bridging the communication gap between research and policymaking.

69. The Community Empowerment Network is UNCTAD's community-based educational and monitoring tool which combines the techniques of social audit and citizen reports. The Network is an instrument to educate citizens about their rights and obligations and creates linkages between service providers and citizens to ensure an exchange of information and feedback. The Network process uses the community as its unit of analysis, and is focused on monitoring at the local/grass-roots levels. It promotes ownership of development projects, facilitates community monitoring and performance evaluation and is used mostly in rural areas. The Network solicits user perceptions on quality, efficiency and transparency, and generates direct feedback mechanisms between providers and users, building local knowledge and capacity, and strengthening citizen voice and community empowerment.

United Nations Development Programme

70. UNDP addresses communication for development issues through the four pillars of its Access to Information work: strengthening legal/regulatory environments, developing capacity, raising awareness, and strengthening communication mechanisms available to vulnerable groups. Its approach to communication for development is rooted in its poverty reduction mandate which reflects a specific commitment to meeting the Millennium Development Goals and the broader objectives of the Millennium Declaration.

71. UNDP has recently led innovative developments in the fourth pillar in particular. The Oslo Governance Centre is piloting the use of communication for empowerment to help communities assess their capacity to receive information and, crucially, to communicate and act upon this information. In partnership with the Communication for Social Change Consortium and with funding from the United Nations Democracy Fund, this approach has so far been piloted at community level in Madagascar and Mozambique, where targeted activities will address the specific challenges identified in the audits. This exercise involves several United Nations agencies, government institutions and civil society organizations.

72. UNDP integrates communication for development across its practice areas, working on communication issues as a part of its programming, for example, capacity development support to elections. Before the 2007 elections in Sierra

Leone, it engaged the national media as a watchdog and to facilitate public debate on the electoral process. UNDP supported sensitization activities directed to the police and security forces, the media and the public prior to the 2007 legislative elections in Togo and a 13-episode anti-corruption television drama series entitled "Scam Files" produced by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commissions in Nigeria. In the Niger, UNDP contributed to the production of a music album highlighting the problem of corruption. To improve public awareness of the Millennium Development Goals, UNDP televised debates in Togo and trained young journalists in the Syrian Arab Republic. In Lebanon, the National Awareness Energy Savings Campaign promoted energy efficiency, mobilizing national broadcast and print media for free airtime and media space.

73. UNDP often takes advantage of specific events to provide entry points. It brought together media stakeholders on the anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami to discuss communicating disasters. It also leveraged the Africa Governance Forum to improve understanding by private sector leaders and journalists of good governance issues.

United Nations Environment Programme

74. UNEP launched the Climate Neutral Network (CN Net) in February 2008 to mobilize the adoption and spread of climate neutral strategies by national and local governments, organizations and business. CN Net provides an online platform and a network for participants to present and exchange information and experiences. Initial participants included four countries (Costa Rica, Iceland, New Zealand and Norway) as well as cities, organizations and businesses. In collaboration with the Environment Management Group, for which UNEP provides the secretariat, UNEP produced the publication *Kick the Habit: A UN Guide to Climate Neutrality* to reinforce its work to promote climate neutrality globally, including within the United Nations system. Based on a UNEP-sponsored Environment Management Group proposal, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination agreed in October 2007 to work towards making the United Nations and its operations climate neutral. UNEP has established a Sustainable United Nations team to catalyse this transformation.

75. The Billion Tree Campaign, a partnership between UNEP and the World Agroforestry Centre, under the patronage of Kenyan Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai and H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, was launched in late 2006 at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations in Nairobi, to promote environmental awareness through the medium of tree planting. In less than one year, Governments, cities, businesses and the public planted 1.5 billion trees. The campaign has been extended with the goal of planting 7 billion trees by the end of 2009.

76. By 2007, 275 financial institutions with assets of $13 trillion had joined the UNEP and the United Nations Global Compact-facilitated Principles for Responsible Investment. According to the UNEP Sustainable Energy Finance Initiative, in 2007 capital flowing into the renewable energy sector had reached $100 billion, up 40 per cent from the year before. The Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, a global policy network that provides a forum for international leadership on renewable energy whose secretariat is hosted by UNEP,

revealed in its Renewables Global Status Report 2007 that more than 50 countries worldwide have adopted renewable energy targets, including 13 developing countries and many states and provinces in the United States of America and Canada. A report compiled by UNEP, the International Labour Organization and trade unions showed that more people are now employed in renewable energy industries than in oil and gas.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

77. The UNESCO approach to communication for development encompasses capacity-building and policy advocacy. Its focus on promoting an enabling environment for freedom of expression and freedom of information, as well as the development of free, independent and pluralistic media to promote people's participation in sustainable development is human rights-based and advocates community media to enable people's voice and self-expression. Access to information representing a plurality of opinions is a prerequisite for people's empowerment and active participation in planning and decision-making. The media can provide access to information and inspire dialogue within enabling environments and with professional capacity, a challenge in many developing countries. In 2007, the Director-General of UNESCO condemned 171 journalist killings and urged all member States to comply with international law to end impunity, prosecute violators, and take part in a voluntary reporting procedure established by UNESCO to prevent the impunity of perpetrators and to improve the status of judicial inquiries conducted on each of the condemned killings.

78. The UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communication allocated US$ 3.7 million to 144 media projects in developing and least developed countries in 2007 and 2008 to build the capacities of media professionals, enhance the quality of media training institutions and foster community access to information. This contribution, along with the initiative promoting the creation of African centres of excellence in journalism education, will increase knowledge of journalists to investigate development and governance issues openly. UNESCO has established media development indicators that can be used by Member States to assess national media capacities, identify priorities for media development and help integrate communication for development in national communication development plans and strategies including CCA/UNDAF. A standard setting model journalism education curricula and a media resource training kit on education for sustainable development are some of the tools that have been produced to bridge media and development practices. Activities are implemented to broaden civic participation in the media by improving media literacy among users, fostering learning opportunities and promoting science knowledge through the media and ICTs.

79. Strengthening institutions that facilitate community access to information, particularly community multimedia centres, contributes to the dialogue on poverty alleviation, sustainable development, good governance, social inclusion and participative democracy. Thus far a total of 130 centres have been introduced in 25 countries: 11 in Africa, 5 in Asia, 7 in the Caribbean and 2 in Latin America. A major regional initiative to take community multimedia centres to national scale completed its first phase in Mali, Mozambique and Senegal with 70 community multimedia centres. Support was also provided for the development of libraries and

archives, and information service providers. Community multimedia centres combine traditional local media, such as newspapers, radio and television, with new technologies, such as computers, the Internet and digital devices. They are mostly community-owned facilities.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

80. ESCAP works in disaster reduction, natural resources and environmental management, tele-education and e-health with supportive connectivity and community e-centres. It provides technical assistance to member States and associate members to implement the regional World Summit on the Information Society action plan by initiating activities to promote and build ICT capacities to facilitate policy debate and create an enabling policy environment supporting ICT for development. To effectively coordinate regional level activities of all United Nations and international organizations concerned, ESCAP co-organizes the annual meeting of the Regional inter-agency Working Group on Information and Communication Technology jointly with ITU and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. It provides advice on appropriate and affordable access to ICT applications and services to meet the challenge of bridging the digital divide while reducing marginalization of rural communities lacking in appropriate ICT infrastructure. The concept of the community e-centre, a shared facility to provide access to ICT and ICT-related services has been recognized as a viable means to provide the benefits of ICT to the relevant communities. As a member of the global Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, it provides capacity-building to enhance monitoring of the information society, particularly in developing countries.

United Nations Population Fund

81. Communication and advocacy are accorded priority in the UNFPA strategic plan, which emphasizes the engagement of advocacy and media outreach to support countries in advancing public knowledge, understanding and commitment with regard to the impact of population growth on sustainable development, education and maternal health and the gains that can be made through universal access to reproductive health services, including family planning and sexual health. Slow progress has been made towards improved maternal health (Millennium Development Goal 5).

82. Communication is crucial for access and appropriate use of health services that have been established to improve reproductive health. By shifting communication activities from information and education delivery to awareness-raising campaigns and influencing behaviour and attitude change, UNFPA is giving people greater insight and knowledge for sustained behaviour and practice and encourages the development of comprehensive, national advocacy and behavioural change communication strategies as a framework for all inputs that may harmonize national and donor efforts in behavioural change communication, including the framework of the United Nations common programming process.

83. UNFPA encourages the collection of baseline data for assessing the need for specific communication interventions and their impact. This includes analysis of communication and media audiences, socio-cultural research for the development of

culturally sensitive programmes and strategies and evaluation of such interventions. Capacity-building of health personnel and community members is also backed up by training in communication strategies and techniques, which is integrated in the curricula of schools of public health and medicine, social work, communication and journalism, and teacher training institutions.

84. UNFPA embraces the use of ICTs and new media, such as campaigns, web-based communities, mobile phones, multimedia presentations and other audio-video technologies to create awareness and promote population and reproductive health issues. Through the UNFPA-supported Women Deliver conference, held in London in October 2007, 2,000 high-level participants and outreach professionals drew the world's attention to the fact that too many women die in pregnancy and childbirth, and that it pays to invest in women's health.

United Nations Children's Fund

85. Programme communication, now called communication for development at UNICEF, is a vital cross-cutting practice that promotes behaviour and social change to achieve programme and advocacy goals. Its results can be measured by: increased knowledge and awareness; improved and new skills; increased demand for products and services; improvements in service delivery (for example, improved interaction between service providers and clients); changes in behaviour and practices; shifts in attitudes, social norms and power relationships; and enhanced self-esteem and self-efficiency. The changes may also include strengthened national Government policies, persuading municipalities to allocate more resources for children's programmes, improving the interpersonal skills of health workers, changing the way journalists perceive and report on children's issues, or changing a community's perceptions of its problems through participatory engagement and empowering them to solve those problems.

86. A review of field reports since 2006 indicates that communication is helping to: strengthen community voices and connect them to upstream policy advocacy; motivate and mobilize civil society, community- and faith-based organizations; and engage parents and communities to raise awareness and foster positive attitudes and practices. Other positive effects include: strengthened national policies; allocation of more resources for programmes benefiting children by municipalities; and improved interpersonal skills among health workers.

87. Communication for development strategies are clustered around flagship initiatives for child survival and development, protection and participation and the realization of the rights of children and women. They range from participatory learning to mobilization of religious leaders and the use of new technologies. A four-year strategic framework and a capability development framework for communication for development will guide these efforts and strengthen technical capacities of staff, partners and counterparts through a process guided by the midterm review of the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan and the transfer of the Communication for Development Unit to the Division of Policy and Practice.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

88. The highly charged political context in which UNRWA operates poses significant challenges to the Agency's communications strategy. The Spokesman's Office, in coordination with the Office of the Commissioner-General, shapes messages to key audiences: refugees, the wider public through the five offices where UNRWA works, the parties to the conflict, host Governments, donors and regional and international audiences. It works with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process to coordinate messaging and organize media campaigns led by specific agencies, for example, UNICEF is leading the joint inter-agency communications campaign around back to school at the start of the school year and the WFP is leading the campaign on food insecurity. UNRWA takes the lead on World Refugee Day.

World Bank

89. The World Bank Development Communication Division entered the United Nations round tables on communication for development in 2004 and has since been active in opening up dialogue and initiating proposals. It played an important role in bringing together hundreds of communication for development practitioners in the First World Congress on Communication for Development, co-hosted by FAO and the Communication Initiative partnership in Rome in 2006, and advocates the mainstreaming of communication for development policies and practices in international organizations and the use of communication-based assessments to enhance project design and sustainability.

90. World Bank effort to consolidate knowledge and strategies in this area was demonstrated through the First World Congress on Communication for Development, with the participation of nearly 1,000 members of civil society, academia and United Nations organizations. The outcome of the First World Congress on Communication for Development is summarized in the Rome Consensus: Communication for Development: a Major Pillar for Development and Change, which defines communication for development as a social process based on dialogue using a broad range of tools and methods. It is also about seeking change at different levels including listening, building trust, sharing knowledge and skills, building policies, debating and learning for sustained and meaningful change. It is not public relations or corporate communication.

91. The World Bank designed a global programme in 2006 placing communication as one of the three central pillars in national programmes. More than 46 national programmes have negotiated financial disbursements to create communication response teams, media campaigns, commission media plans, train media professionals, and produce information material and so forth.

VI. Collaborative action of United Nations organizations with civil society

92. Communication for development practice is known among civil society groups that work outside the modus operandi of the United Nations and national planning mechanisms mainly at the grass-roots level.

93. Civil society groups and non-governmental organizations should participate in defining national strategies for communication for development from the inception stages of planning.

94. Examples of collaboration with civil society include the following:

(a) United Nations Millennium Campaign held its annual mobilization Stand Up, Speak Out in October 2007, at which 43.6 million people, particularly in Asia and Africa, demonstrated their determination to hold their leaders to account regarding the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, nearly doubling the 2006 numbers that set a Guinness World Record. This year, the mobilization was carried out in collaboration with a wide range of partners, including faith groups, the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, the United Nations Department of Public Information and several United Nations country teams. Stand Up has provided a powerful, high-profile communication platform for many of the most disenfranchised and impoverished constituencies to have their voices heard at the highest levels.

(b) UNDP has leveraged the Africa Governance Forum to deepen the understanding of communications for private sector leaders and working journalists of good governance issues in Africa. The sixth forum, held in 2006, focused on the African Peer Review Mechanism, and UNDP and the African Peer Review Panel of Eminent Persons, in collaboration with the Media Institute of Southern Africa and the Reuters Foundation, organized a media forum that ran parallel to the conference. In 2007, UNDP organized a media dialogue during the seventh Africa Governance Forum, which had as its theme "Building the capable State in Africa". Approximately 20 journalists from across the region took part in the event, again facilitated by the Reuters Foundation.

(i) At the First World Congress on Communication for Development, the Rome Consensus was adopted by nearly 1,000 members of civil society, academia and United Nations organizations.

(ii) UNICEF partnered with Google and One Laptop per Child to launch the Our Stories project, which seeks to collect and store five million stories from youth around the world. The initiative provides resources to create and share personal stories, starting with children in developing countries who are using One Laptop per Child computers or those who are working with UNICEF-supported radio producers to record and share interviews. Children are asked to record the stories of elders, family members and friends. Stories are recorded on location and each appears as a peg on a Google map, accompanied by some basic information and a photograph. Our Stories will serve as a global advocacy and information-sharing platform (http://www.ourstories.org/).

(iii) UNRWA meets regularly with civic society and refugee organizations in the five field areas in which the Agency works to coordinate communications and messaging. In the Gaza Strip, UNRWA enjoys a close working relationship

with a broad range of civil society organizations, human rights groups, charities and development agencies. In Lebanon, the reconstruction of the Nahr el Bared refugee camp has necessitated widespread consultation with local and national civil society organizations on communications as well as all aspects of development programming.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

95. **In the context of the ongoing United Nations reform process it would be important to ascertain resource allocation to prioritize communication for development in all programmatic areas of agencies, funds and programmes including training of United Nations staff on communication for development in this domain.**

96. **The United Nations Inter-agency Communication for Development Round Table group seeks to establish formal linkages with the United Nations Development Group as an essential step towards ensuring a harmonized and coherent working approach. This is expected to resolve some of the common challenges, particularly those related to the prioritization of communication for development within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.**

97. **The United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table assures cross-fertilization of ideas and opinion on communication for development with the United Nations Communications Group, thus emphasizing distinctions and complementarities that exist between communication for development programmes and programmes designed to heighten visibility.**

98. **Recognizing the Round Table as a formal United Nations inter-agency working group will allow the biennial Round Table to follow up not only on Round Table recommendations but also on progress in the integration of communication for development practice into relevant planning and programme delivery mechanisms in the United Nations and in systematic data collection and articulation of cross-cutting priorities such as gender.**

99. **Communication is more than a tool for generating and disseminating content and should be used to facilitate relevant social change processes. The growing number of designated communication for development focal points from practising and non-practising agencies, funds and programmes demonstrates the growing momentum of both need and interest.**